DEEPER GRACE: EXERCISE THREE

God's grace is not an abstraction. It's not an idea or a concept. Jesus has given us a real-life laboratory to encounter God's grace in new (and repeated) ways. Where can we receive—and give—the grace of God? The answer may surprise you.

Review the text



Be still
Invite the Holy Spirit
Breathe

Don't hurry: Wait until you're confident the Spirit is poised to help you in this exercise.

Read Colossians 3:1-17. The passage speaks first of dealing with the enemies of grace. Then look carefully at verses 12-17: do you see the see the invitation to a grace-filled life lived in Christian community?

We cannot engage in these behaviors apart from relationships with others.

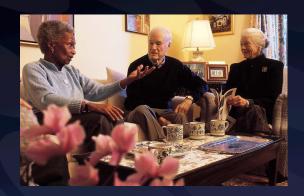
Reach Beyond Yourself

This is not idealism: God has provided a real-life setting for grace to exist. It's his church.

It's impossible to live out these verses apart from a life in community with others. Ask God for the grace to break free from a life of isolation and self seeking.

If you see the need for community, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your place at the table. Perhaps you need to find a community; perhaps you need to find your place within your existing community.

Where has God set the table for you? He is faithful: he will lead you home.



Search for Your Home



Search it Out:

Search for your home, your family, and your place at the table. Keep in mind that the object of a search is finding. Jesus promised "Everyone who seeks, finds."

SOME THINGS TAKE A LIFETIME: Grace grows steady, slow, and sure. The grace of community bears fruit (again and again) after decades of rootedness.

Modern life works against God's pace of planting, growing, harvesting, and planting again. There's a part of God's grace we cannot experience apart from sharing the years and our lives with the same group of people.