

C. **Pride** - the internal psychological need to always be right.

**Proverbs 16:18 – (The Message Bible)** “Pride will destroy a person; a proud attitude leads to ruin. First pride, then the crash ... the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.”

**The Solution:** Don't give the impression that you are **self-centered**.

**Romans 12:16** “Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be **wise in your own estimation**.”

D. **Self** love – the need to be sure that all events in life benefit me.

**James 4: 1 – 2** “What causes fights and quarrels? Don't they come from your **desires** that battle **within** you? You want something but you don't get it.”

**Evil Desires = more**

**1. Possessions**

**2. Money**

**3. Higher Status**

**4. More recognition**

**The Solution:** See others through the **eyes** of Jesus, not your own!

**Galatians 5: 15** “Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness ... “

III. **We tie the knot of fellowship when we really understand how **grace** works.**

**Grace** = God's unmerited favor given to us who do not deserve any of it.

- In return, “**it**” is the love of God, we show to people

- “**It**” supersedes, or trumps any desire for personal acclaim.

### What Does Grace Do?

A. Grace **opens** our eyes to the needs of others.

### Types of People in Churches

1. **Talker** - the person who needs to be heard and you get to hear it.
  2. **TMI** - “too much information” guy – the one who tells us what we do not really want to hear about himself.
  3. **Dogmatic** - the person who lays down the law, clenches his fist.
  4. **The Joker** - he gets his kicks by making a joke, lightens the mood.
  5. **The crier** - the sensitive one who needs a mate to share the load.
  6. **EGR** - extra grace required.
- B. Grace **cleanses** our hearts to ourselves.

**Titus 3:3 – 7** “Once our lives were full of resentment and envy. But **then** ... Christ saved us – by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of indwelling Holy Spirit .....

C. Grace **creates** sensitivity in our hearts.

**Romans 14: 19 – 20** “So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of foods.”

**Conclusion:**

## First Church of God

Sept. 23, 2012

**Sermon Outline**  
**Pastor, Robert G. White**

### “Getting Along In God's Family”

**Acts 15: 36 - 40**

<sup>36</sup> Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” <sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, <sup>38</sup> but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. <sup>39</sup> They had a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and left commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.”

**Introduction:**

In Acts we see some people who loved God, but who didn't get along well.

1. **We learn to get along when we do **life** together.**

**Paul and Barnabas were in step in terms of their purpose.**

**Acts 15: 22** “Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with

Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers.'

**Acts 15:35** "But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord."

The "rub" came over a third party ... the young John Mark.

**Acts 15: 36 – 37** "Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." <sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them."

**Key:** The difference was not over the mission ... the difference was over **method**, how to best carry out the missions.

**Barnabas believed** the best way to accomplish the task was to take **John Mark** along.

**Barnabas felt** **John Mark** was committed and should be taken.

**Paul felt** that **John Mark** was a deserter ... a poor example for churches.

**Acts 15: 37** "Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise ..."

A. Paul's **purpose** was to **strengthen** the churches of his home district, which he had not seen in ten years.

**"Strength"** = to establish  
= to support  
= to stabilize  
= to make strong  
= to prop up

B. Paul's **purpose** was to **support** and teach the churches ...

1. To lean up and prop their **lives** upon Jesus.
2. To be stable and strong in the Lord's **teaching.**
3. To be strengthened and established in their lives and **witness.**

**Point:** Paul was interested in churches but less so in **community** being developed ... so it seems.

**The Key to Getting Life =** **learning** that God creates us unique and different.

**Why?** To **test** our ability to be distributors of His grace.

**Galatians 6:8** Paul later wrote: "The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others – and ignoring God – harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, and eternal life."

II. We build God's family when we learn to **admit** our weakness.

Some Christians are like **porcupines**.

**What Causes it? ... Common Weakness That Rips God's Family.**

A. **Resentment** - the inability to put others first.

**Psalm 73: 21 – 22** "Since my heart was embittered and my soul deeply wounded, I was stupid and could not understand."

**Point:** **Avoid** letting a grieved heart become an embittered spirit.

**The Solution:** Pounce on **bitterness** before it becomes a cancer.

**Hebrews 12: 15** "Look after each other ... watch out that **no bitterness** takes **root among** you, for as it springs up it caused deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives."

B. **Insecurity** - failure to understand that God is our confidence.

**Proverbs 29:25** (The Message Bible) "The fear of human opinion disables."

**Point:** **Fear** of man can hamper everything you try to do.

**Why fear people who can do no eternal harm to you?**

**The Solution:** **Fear** is proof that God's love is inactive in us.

**I John 4: 18** "Love has no fear because **perfect love** expels all fear. If we are afraid ... it shows that **His love** has not been perfected **in us.**"