**Date & Sermon Series:**

November 21/22, 2015; A1:8 On Mission Every Day

**Speaker:**

Dr. David Anderson

**Scripture Focus**: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27

**Note To Leaders:**

This weekend we discussed Gracism- a positive extension of favor on people regardless of color, class, or culture. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don’t feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don’t have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow. **Special Note to Leaders:** *These questions may provoke discussions about politics, especially related to social issues. While these aren’t bad discussions to have, we want to make sure that they remain healthy, productive, and positive, and we want to be careful that no one—especially people who may not currently be following Jesus—leaves thinking that to be a follower of Jesus you have to vote a certain way or believe something particular about a given issue. Carefully monitor the atmosphere in the room. Having potentially difficult conversations within community is the perfect place to do so, but lead with caution and care.*

**Icebreaker Suggestions**:

What are your Thanksgiving traditions?

**Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. In what ways did the theme of unity from this message speak to you?

**Specific Questions**:

1. Gracism, Dr. Anderson says, is a positive extension of favor on people, not earned or deserved, regardless of color, class, or culture. When in your life have you experienced a time of undeserved grace? How did that make you feel? What role should grace play in our lives as Christians?

2. What are some ways integration can be a part of our everyday lives? What are some ways we have the capacity to impact large people groups and the trajectory for future generations?

3. Dr. Anderson said that at the heart of racism are three issues: race, color, and class. Why do you think these three topics create the most conflict amongst nations and people groups?

4. Gracism over racism takes conscious efforts and energy so that we are continually making decisions for the betterment of others not out of superior thoughts or selfish decisions. What are some practical ways you can choose to make decisions with a mindset of grace instead of presuppositions?

5. Paul discusses the importance of unity throughout the New Testament. Dr. Anderson specifically focuses on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, the unity of the body. How have you thought about unity in contrast to segregation? How does unity of the body play a role in the Kingdom of God? How have you thought about 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 before this message? How did Dr. Anderson’s message change your perspective or enhance it?

6. Why do you think Paul includes the message about unity using the metaphor of a body?

7. Dr. Anderson covers 7 sayings that we are to repeat and act on when living a lifestyle of gracism (reference below). Which one do you find the easiest? Which one is the most difficult for you?

- I will lift you up.

- I will cover you.

- I will share with you.

- I will honor you.

- I will stand with you.

- I will consider you.

- I will celebrate with you.

**Read, Pray, Act:**

This message could have possibly stirred something in your heart that you need to change or do. Maybe the Holy Spirit convicted you or set you free. Whatever it may be, read through 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 each day this week and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as we all continue to try to be more unified as the Body of Christ. If the Spirit convicted you or set you free from something this weekend, find someone you trust to talk to about the change in your heart. Ask them for prayer as you walk through whatever the Lord has for you.

**Challenge:**

Pick up a copy of Gracism by Dr. Anderson at your closest bookstore or on Amazon. Read through it this month to learn more about giving positive extensions of favor to people.