

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

When We're Together

1: Encourage

### Speaker:

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### Date:

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### Scriptures:

Various

**Theme:** Since he gives more grace, we will give more encouragement.

**Introduction:** We have considered how true fellowship is founded on Jesus and that it requires us to gather and to spend time together. But when we gather, what are our goals to be? Why do we gather? Over the next several weeks, we will look at various components of what biblical fellowship looks like.

We can 3 aspects of the relationship between grace and encouragement:

### 1. He gives more grace

James 4:1-7 shows us the depths of our sinfulness as we idolatrously pursue our selfish desires and we are willing to sin against others to try to get it.

This selfish covetousness is the source of our conflicts, and an impediment to our fellowship with one another.

It also shows us the heights of God's mercy and love. Though the indictment against us is damning, still we read: "But he gives more grace..." The Lord has the grace we need and does not leave us to ourselves.

### 2. Be sensitive to his grace

1 Corinthians chronicles a litany of problems within the church in Corinth. There is an impressive array of ways that they are failing to obey God.

And yet, in 1 Cor 1:4-9, Paul thanks God for the church and for all the ways that they are responsible to God and his word. He is attuned to the ways that the Spirit is at work there and he is bringing attention to them.

We, too, must be sensitive to the ways that the Spirit is at work to others. Rather than being quick to take offense, we should be quick to recognize God's grace at work.

### 3. Encourage one another with his grace

In understanding our natural sinfulness apart from God's grace, we are better able to recognize that every good thing in our lives points to God's grace.

We encourage others, then, by pointing out the grace of God that is behind the other person's action, activity, or attitude.

We can help one another by actively searching out and drawing attention to how God is at work in them.

### Questions:

1. Are you skilled in identifying 'evidences of grace' in your life and others'?
2. How are you experiencing God's grace through the church?
3. How would you like to grow in encouraging others?