

## Characteristics of a Grace-Driven Ministry: Part 1

### 2 Corinthians 1:12-14

***BIG IDEA: God's grace empowers genuine Christian ministry.***

**Sanctifying Grace: God's divine enabling to fulfill His purposes in my life.**

### Exposition

#### I. A grace-driven ministry will display genuine Christian behavior. (1:12)

- Christian behavior involves a bold and joyful \_\_\_\_\_.
- Christian behavior involves a testimony of holy and generous \_\_\_\_\_.
- Christian behavior involves a testimony of godly \_\_\_\_\_.
- Christian behavior rejects and refutes the ungodly \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.  
**(4:1-2)**
- Christian behavior ministers God's \_\_\_\_\_ by genuinely and generously serving \_\_\_\_\_ Christians.

#### II. A grace-driven ministry will foster and pursue spiritual growth within the Body of Christ. (1:13-14)

- Spiritual growth requires a growing \_\_\_\_\_ of God's truth. **(1:13)**
- Spiritual growth requires a growing \_\_\_\_\_ for fellow Christians.  
**(1:14)**
- Spiritual growth requires a growing \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus Christ's return. **(1:14; Titus 2:11-14)**

## Observations

1. The “boasting” that Paul mentions (1:12a, 14b) is not a sinful boasting. It involves bold, joyful, and thankful confidence (a “godly pride” 😊). (**7:4; 14; 8:24; 1 Thess. 2:19**)
2. God’s grace is designed to work both inwardly (in us) and outwardly (through us to others). If both realities are not active in our lives and ministries, then we are failing to be good stewards of God’s grace!
3. God’s grace is His answer to the earthly wisdom of the world and is His antidote to earthly depravity. (**1:12; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31**)

## Questions/Application

1. Is your daily behavior distinctively Christian?
2. Are you endeavoring each day to grow in your understanding of God’s truth?
3. Who are you encouraging to grow in Christ and helping to disciple?
4. What do you need to add (or subtract) from your daily life and behavior for you to have a genuinely grace-driven Christian ministry and mindset?
5. Ask God to help you to (a) depend on His grace as you (b) minister His grace to others.

**BIG IDEA:** *God’s grace empowers genuine Christian ministry.*