Introduction: Last time we saw how a proper understanding of grace should impact our attitude toward membership and attendance within the local church. Today, we will examine the relationship between grace and our giving and service in the Body of Christ.

I. Regarding Membership

II. Regarding Attendance

III. Regarding Giving

Bad Grace says, “I can give as little as I want.”

Good Grace says, “I should give as much as I can.”

Three Timeless Truths About Giving

A. “Everything I Own Belongs to God.” (Job 41:11)

Job 41:11 “Who has given to Me [God] that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.”

B. “I Should See the Highest Rate of Return with God’s Money.”

(Matthew 25:14-30)

Matthew 6:19-20 19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.”
Matthew 25:14-30

14 “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. 16 Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. 17 In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. 18 But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

19 Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. 27 Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. 28 Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 30 Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

C. “The Tithe Is the Starting Place for Giving.” (Genesis 14:20)

Genesis 14:20 “Blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. He gave him a tenth of all.”

IV. Regarding Service

Bad Grace says, “I don’t have to do anything in the church.”

Good Grace says, “God has given me the privilege of serving somewhere in the church.”
A. Every Christian Has Been Given a Unique **Spiritual Gift**. (Romans 12:6-8)

Definition of a Spiritual Gift: The unique **passion** and **power** that God gives you to further His kingdom.

Romans 12:6-8  6 “Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

B. Our Gift Is to be Used in the **Local Church**. (Romans 12:5)

Romans 12:5 “So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

C. We Experience **Fulfillment** from Using Our Spiritual Gift. (Romans 12:3)

Romans 12:3 “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

Conclusion