

5 Day Devotional

 G R A C E
C O M M U N I T Y | C H U R C H

Day 1: Unity in Christ

Reading: Romans 14:1-12

In a world quick to judge and divide, Paul's words remind us of the beautiful unity we have in Christ. Despite our differences on disputable matters, we are all servants of the same Master. Today, reflect on areas where you may have judged others harshly for their beliefs or practices. How can you extend grace and acceptance to those who differ from you? Remember, our unity is not in uniformity of opinion, but in our shared love for Jesus. Pray for the humility to see beyond differences and to focus on the essential truths that bind us together as followers of Christ.

Day 2: Freedom and Love

Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Christian freedom is a precious gift, but it comes with great responsibility. Paul teaches us that love should be the guiding principle in how we exercise our freedom. Consider areas in your life where your actions, though permissible, might cause another believer to stumble. How can you use your freedom to build others up rather than tear them down? Ask God for wisdom to discern when to exercise your freedom and when to limit it out of love for others. Remember, true strength is found not in asserting our rights, but in laying them down for the sake of others, just as Christ did for us.

Day 3: The Fruit of the Spirit

Reading: Galatians 5:13-26

In the face of disagreements and disputable matters, Paul points us to a higher way - the way of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - are the true marks of Christian maturity. Reflect on how these qualities can transform your interactions with those who hold different views. Which fruit do you find most challenging to exhibit in the face of disagreement? Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate this fruit in your life, especially in your relationships with fellow believers who see things differently.

Day 4: The Mind of Christ

Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

The ultimate example of humility and sacrificial love is found in Christ Jesus. Paul urges us to have the same mindset as Christ, who did not cling to His rights but emptied Himself for our sake. In light of Christ's example, how can you "consider others better than yourself" in your daily interactions? Reflect on areas where pride or self-righteousness might be hindering your relationships with other believers.

Pray for the grace to emulate Christ's humility, especially when dealing with disputable matters in the church.

Day 5: Building Up the Body

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

Paul's vision for the church is one of unity, maturity, and growth. Each member has a role to play in building up the body of Christ. As you reflect on your place within the church, consider how you can contribute to its unity and growth. Are there gifts or talents you've been hesitant to use? How can you encourage and support others in their spiritual journey, even those with whom you might disagree on secondary issues? Pray for discernment in how to best serve and strengthen your local church community, always keeping in mind the ultimate goal of becoming more like Christ together.