

Sunday 4th October 2026

Frontline Fruitfulness: Ministering grace and love

Welcome

- Fruitfulness on the Frontline – What's your favourite fruit and why? (the type you eat!) Have a vote for the most popular.
- Last week we looked at making good work. Has this had any particular significance this week as you have been back on your frontline?
- This week we turn to 'Ministering Grace and Love'. Has anyone ever done anything for you that they didn't have to do? What impact did that have on you?

Word

Read Colossians 1:3-8:

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people – ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world – just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

1. In verse 3, Paul thanks God for them – he often does this when he writes to churches. Do we find it easy to thank others or do we sometimes forget?

The people of Colossae are 'rooted' in Christ Jesus, because:

- *they have faith in him (v4),*
- *they have heard the true message of the gospel (v5)*
- *and they truly understand God's grace (v6).*

2. Think back to when you first heard the gospel – do you understand it better now? What things/experiences helped you understand better?

Ministering Grace & Love follows from being rooted in Jesus. It's because we want to be like him. We can make a big difference with small things,

3. Do you think our actions are a reflection of what's in our hearts?
4. Is it hard to stop focussing on ourselves & focus on others instead?
5. Here are some examples of ministering grace and love:
 - Noticing someone who is left out and including them
 - Offering to help someone who is struggling
 - Smiling at someone who looks miserable
 - Offering to do more than your fair share of something at work
6. What specific examples can you think of that are relevant to your frontlines? (even if you haven't done them yet!)
7. Does it 'cost us' to minister generous love & grace on our frontlines?
8. Are some people harder to minister grace and love to? Why?
9. What does it mean to live unexpectedly? To minister grace and love to the last people who would expect it?
10. Sometimes ministering grace and love can be uncomfortable. eg.
 - being kind to someone who is often unkind to you.
 - taking the risk of helping a difficult person see they're difficult!How do you feel about doing uncomfortable things like this – you may be able to think of other examples.
Another example is in the 6Ms definition over the page:
 - do an appraisal with the other person's long-term interests at heart, not just the company's.

11. People can have very fixed views of what Christians can be like – how do you act and react in such a way that challenges their expectations?
12. What stops us acting with grace and love? Fear? Pride? Being unsure how to act? Being too busy? Too distracted?
13. How do we feel (or would we feel) if we received grace and love from someone we least expect?
14. Do you sometimes feel like you don't have the resources to minister grace and love? Is it easy to rely on God's resources?
15. It's not just big gestures, do we forget little things can be ministry too?
16. What small but costly things might you already do on your frontline that you might not have ever considered to be ministry?
17. When we minister grace and love on our frontlines – does this sometimes lead to meaningful conversations with non-Christians?

Being rooted in Christ Jesus motivates us to minister grace and love and that can bear fruit in 3 ways:

- *others grow roots – take a step closer to God (move around clock)*
- *personal growth – we grow closer to what God wants for us*
- *global growth – the number of followers grow*

18. How do you feel about your small actions creating global growth?!

Worship & Witness

We have been shown lavish grace by Jesus. Our love and grace towards others springs from a place of thankfulness for the grace we've received.

- Pray that God would reveal more of his grace and love for us.
- Pray that God will show you opportunities to minister grace & love.
- Commit to at least one act of random kindness this week.

6Ms

Model godly character

In tough times and easy ones, with difficult people and delightful people, how might you manifest the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Which one is a struggle for you? Are you praying that you grow in the Christlikeness of your responses?

Make good work

This includes both what we do and how we do it. It means doing good work that serves other people, contributes to human flourishing, and stewards creation. It means doing your tasks consciously for the Lord, in the Spirit, to his glory, seeking his wisdom, his strength, and his touch. Your best with his transforming help.

Minister grace and love

There are many ways to do this, not only in practical care and kindness for those who need it, but through the way we respond in difficult and indeed ordinary situations. How do we engage with the check-out person, or the lonely shopper in the charity shop, or the new parent at the school gate or do an appraisal with the other person's long-term interests at heart, not just the company's?

Mould culture

Culture is 'the way we do things round here'. Although you may not be able to change the way your company or your gym or your parent's association does things by next Monday, you may well be able to begin with a few people and a few small actions. What things bother you – and what are the values that underpin them? What could be done differently that would make it a better place for people to flourish? What would make it more like God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven?

Be a **M**outhpiece for truth and justice

There will be times when being a disciple means speaking up against things that are unfair, unhealthy, or untruthful, and speaking up for things that are true and just and good. It takes courage, wisdom and prayer.

Be a **M**essenger of the gospel

You may not get an opportunity every day, or even every month, but ask God who he might want you to pray for. Ask someone else to pray for you, to offer wisdom and hold you accountable. Be ready 'to give a reason for the hope that is in you' (1 Peter 3:15). Don't be driven by false guilt. Rest in God, trust his timing, build trust and relationships, care for people, and share what Jesus has done in your life and what he offers to everyone. Celebrate the steps you see people making towards Jesus.