

Crossway Life Group, Week of January 13

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:7-11 **Sermon: "Reflecting God's Glory"**

Reading & Discussing the passage

- **Read John 1:18.** How did Jesus make the Father known to the disciples in a way that people did not experience God the Father?
- **Read 1 Peter 4:7.** Peter says that the end of all things has come near. What does that mean? In what sense is that statement just as true today as it was when Peter wrote it?
- Some have said that the Kingdom of God is "already and not yet." It is "Already" in the sense that God has given His Spirit, He has brought forgiveness, and He has begun the process of transforming lives. It is "Not yet" in the sense that His Kingdom is not of this world, and the ways of the world are so often quite different from the ways of God. What does that look like in everyday life?
- Our doctrinal statement includes these words: "The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, requires constant expectancy, and as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission." What might it look like to think clearly and soberly about this reality in our daily lives? What might cloud that thinking?
- **Read 1 Peter 4:8-11.** What does Peter command? How do these commands tie together?
- In what sense does love cover over a multitude of sins? What does it look like to love this way? What might be some problematic ways we might misapply this command?
- Peter describes "gifts" might be described as abilities or inclinations or passions given by God that are meant to be used to express God's grace and care to other people. What are the categories of gifts that Peter describes? What are some examples of gifts that fit into each of these two categories?

The Big Idea

**Christ is glorified
and His people experience His grace
when each one of God's people
use what God has given them
for the good of others**

Reflection Questions

1. "God's primary plan for people to see and experience God is when God's people speak and serve God's grace to others." What is your reaction to that statement? What questions does it raise? How does it affect how you view your role and the role of others in the church?
2. How have you experienced God's grace through God's people? How have you been a means of God's grace to others?
3. What gifts / abilities / interests / passions has God given you that are or can be for the good of other Christians? What gifts / abilities / interests / passions do you see in others in your group?

- Consider using a spiritual gift assessment tool, like tiny.cc/spiritual_gifts. There is a danger in using a survey like this, in that it expresses a particular view of gifts that is not universal. On the other hand, it can be useful in helping us recognize gifts that we are slower to be able to see.
4. When we speak, what does it mean to speak the very words of God? It certainly includes quoting Scripture, but it is certainly more than just that. When Jesus spoke, He spoke with authority. In what sense might our speech also be with authority?
 5. When we serve, what does it mean to serve in the strength God provides? What is the alternative that we should avoid?

Growing in Cultural Understandings

One aspect of hospitality is serving as a host for meals, for people to stay, or for events to take place. In some cultures, this kind of hospitality is highly valued, while in other cultures, there is much less emphasis on hospitality. What was your experience growing up? What does it look like for you today?

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves? One specific strategy may be to pray for another group of people. And perhaps you could reach out to people in that group and ask them how you might pray.

John 1:18 – New International Version

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

1 Peter 4:7-11 - New International Version

⁷The end of all things is near.

Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.