**Apportioning Grace**

**Worksheet**

Grace is one of a few attributes in the Christian character that is portioned / measured (Ephesians 4:7) in how much we receive from Christ, and how much we give to one another. When we misappropriate grace, very negative consequences can occur (see the table below). This worksheet is designed to help you determine the right balance of giving, and receiving, grace in your life.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Giving Grace** | **Receiving Grace** |
| *Too much* | * Tolerating abuse
* Turning a blind eye
* Toxic relationships
* Creates false security (i.e. Building a house of cards)
 | * Arrogance / self-righteousness
* Narcissism /Abusive of others
* Living in a House of cards
 |
| *Too little* | * Bitter judgements
* Anger
* Unforgiveness
* Selfishness
* Unrealistic expectations of others
 | * Fear of failure
* Too low standards
* Failure to thrive
* Limited character development
 |

Q1a. List one or two people in your life who you believe require more than the usual serving of grace.

Q1b. How long have you known each of them?

Q1c. In there anything in their history that reveals why they move into situations that require a lot of grace? (e.g. maybe they sense urgency in responding to needs and jump too quickly, maybe they are high grace givers and assume the same, of others, maybe they are more goal-focused than journey-focused).

Q1d. How can you protect yourself from withholding good grace from these “high maintenance” grace users?

|  |
| --- |
| Q1a. Name: Q1b. Friend since (year) |
| Q1c. History: What about their past informs their grace needs today?1.2. |
| Q1d. How can you maintain the right amount of grace?1.2.3. |
| Q1a. Name: Q1b. Friend since (year) |
| Q1c. History: What about their past informs their grace needs today?1.2. |
| Q1d. How can you maintain the right amount of grace?1.2.3. |

[CAUTION: Be careful not to judge them negatively. Often these are the very same people who come to the table offering an abundance of grace, charity, & forgiveness to others.]

Q2a. Are there people or situations in your life where the grace cards are all used up, but you still continue to issue grace? E.g. abuse, addictive behaviors, dangerous situations.

Q2b. What would this relationship/situation look like if you stopped issuing grace, but continued to love and forgive?

Q2c. How might a dear friend or Pastor advise you if you shared this situation with him/her.

Q2d. Would terminating the relationship trigger any of the signs of *Too Little* grace?

Q2e. How does that factor into the decision on continuing to issue grace versus stepping away?

|  |
| --- |
| Q2a. Name:  |
| Q2b. Love & forgiveness, but grace is complete |
| Q2c. Advisor might suggest . . . |
| Q2d. Does an end of relationship threaten a different bad situation? |
| Q2e. Where does the balance of grace lie? |
| Q2f. What are the results of the 5-point strategy?G –R –A –C –E - |