



THIS IS US

GRATITUDE

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GAUGE OF GRATITUDE

Series

Foundations and Family Crests

- Cross
- Cup
- Pitcher
- Crown



3 D Discipleship

- Discover, Demonstrate, Duplicate

Gauge of Gratitude – Duplication Dashboard Indicator



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Stark Reality of This Issue

Where there is a lack of Gratitude:

- entitlement
- discouragement
- discontentment

Where there is the culture of Gratitude:

- encouragement
- appreciation
- blessing



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1. A Biblical Look at Gratitude

a) God is worthy of celebration and thanksgiving

- Psalm 100 “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

- call to the people of God remember & celebrate



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b) Heart of God for His Children

- 1 Thess. 5:16-18 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

- Col. 3:15-16 “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

- desires His children to be identified as thankful



c) Clear Practice of Early Church

- Eph. 5:4 “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.”

- Col. 2:6-7 “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

- many examples from the one another's to examples from the apostles – clear the people of God give thanks



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2. The Struggle in Living this Out

a) counter cultural

- focus on what you have been granted
- challenges fairness and comparison models
- seeks to live in the tension of gratitude for what we have and honesty about what we need

b) not a natural drift or bent for people

- takes intentionality, work to develop it

c) difficult when seasons are hard from our perspective



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3. Helpful Instructions in Scripture

a) warning of not addressing this truth

- Rom. 1:21 “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools”
- there are clear dangers identified in this issue



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b) to be a part of bringing things to God

- Phil. 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”



- in everything

- changes perspective and hope

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c) Recall and Remind us – In all seasons

- Lamentations 3:20:26 “My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

- Renew the record often and give thanks



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So What?

- 1. God is worthy of our thanksgiving**
 - His love, provision, adoption, inheritance
- 2. Clearly desires his family to be thankful people**
 - light in our culture and place
 - how we operate in relationships
- 3. Thankfulness is modeled, taught, intentional**
 - look for chances to align our lives and practice
- 4. Opportunity to express thanksgiving to God**

