



Chapter Twenty: The Means of Grace, Part One — The Word & Fellowship

How does God equip us for the task of being the church?

The Idea of a Means of Grace

“What is a means of grace? We all know what grace is: God’s unmerited favor when we deserve wrath. Without God’s grace, we are lost. And we need God’s grace not only at the beginning of the Christian life but throughout. So, naturally we ask, where can we go to find God’s continuing grace to us? Where do we go to get the resources for sanctification, for continuing spiritual growth? The short answer is that there are three places: the Word, fellowship, and prayer.” (p. 261)

The Word of God

Listening to God speak.

Fellowship

Interacting with fellow believers in our environment.

Prayer

Interacting with God in the depths of our hearts.

Question: How does Frame show these working together on p. 261?

Question: How does Frame note that his listing of “means of grace” is unusual?

The Word

The Word of God

God’s powerful, authoritative self-expression.

The Word is ministered through people (the church)

Preaching, teaching, witnessing, Q&A ... mission

The Holy Spirit accompanies the Word

1Th 1:5; Heb 4:12
Meditation on the Word — Ps 1

Fellowship

Koinonia = “commonness” — Commonness of goods (Ac 4:32; 2Co 8:4; Php 1:5), of mission (Gal 2:9), of religion (1Co 1:9; 10:20; 2Co 6:14; 1Jn 1:3), of heart (Php 2:1; it’s close to “friendship,” and the English “coitus” comes from the same Greek root)

Worship

- God meets with us and we with him (Ps 22:25; Rom 15:9; 2Chr 5:13-14; 1Co 14:25; Jas 4:8)
- Our Elder Brother is among us as Liturgist (Heb 8:1-2); Preacher & Song Leader (Heb 2:12; Ac 26:23); Baptizer (Eph 5:26); Table Host (1Co 10:16-22; 11:20)

Giving

First of ourselves, and then of our resources ...

- To our families (1Tm 5:8)
- To “the household of faith” (Gal 6:10; 1Jn 3:17; Gal 2:10; Jas 2:16; Mt 25:31-46)
- To everyone (Gal 6:10; Lk 10:25-37)
- Word to the wise: “tithes & offerings” (Mal 3:8-10; Mt 23:23-24; 2Co 8:9; 9:7)

Nurture

An intimacy that the HS provides

- The Spirit builds us into God’s house (Eph 2:19-22; 1Co 3:17; 6:19; 1Pt 2:5)
- Talk that builds up (Eph 4:29)
- Reclamation (Gal 6:1; Jas 5:20)
- Healing prayer (Jas 5:14)