

















School of Grace

Reading: 1 Peter 4:8-11; John 15:26-16:4

"faithfully administer God's grace"

Do you know of any government that has that as its philosophy?

What would happen if they did make it their promise?

Apart from the inevitable failure to keep that promise along with every other political promise I can't see it happening

That is because governments have defined their work as follow, [in no particular order, given that political life is arguing about what order these should take]:

- 1) strong military: one needs to have the weapons to destroy others, to prove our superiority, and to make sure no one else takes what is ours
- Vibrant economy: the world revolves around money and governments are about keeping the economy growing, creating jobs, and making sure of our prosperity so we can influence the world through what we earn
- 3) Security: making people safe by enforcing our laws, by imprisoning and killing those who do the same, to condemn those who don't do the things we demand and expect
- 4) Health and education: making smarter people live longer, to be able to pigeon hole individuals by the labels we have written thesis about, to defend and justify the things that are always indefensible, to heal the sick if they qualify to our standards
- 5) Environment: making sure the environment is tailored for what we want it to do for us

And one could add the rest of the government departments we have created to deal with the things that we require. Government has become a matter of making sure nothing bad happens in the above categories, imposing our will on society, and doing whatever it takes to stay in power. The whole structure requires earning not grace. It demands justice not mercy. It seeks revenge not forgiveness. It uses the tools of hate not love.

Governments, and the individuals within them, keep failing, so we keep expecting even more of them. Opinion polls vary from week to week, but the trend lines are trending down on citizens view of government, no matter who it is, and the whole political game where no one wins.

Do we have faith that forgiving our enemies will actually make the world safer?

Do we have faith that being merciful to those who hurt us will provide security?

Do we have faith that loving others no matter what the cost will end our wars?

Do we have faith that giving everything up will provide more to humans than our economic theories suggest? Do we have faith that grace will satisfy justice?

What would the world look like if we administered grace faithfully?