



Church is a movement that includes

By Dave Parr

CHAPTER FOUR.

A gracious movement. Galatians 5

This episode will help you **engage, reflect and respond** to Church is. We encourage you to explore each episode with friends - if you do, let us know! We'd love to hear about it and your thoughts and ideas.

Each episode has a companion video and each episode title mirrors one of its key themes. Thanks for downloading.

Companion video: churchis.co.uk/daveparr

Chapter: FOUR of FOUR



W W W . C H U R C H . C O . U K



A gracious movement

Galatians 5 (NIV)



I ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Church has to be a gracious community.

We best understand the Bible and the nature of God as we grapple with scripture together through dialogue and conversation.

We won't always agree with one another. However, our shades of opinion and varying viewpoints are essential if we are to gain the fullest understanding of who God is. This isn't easy and it's tempting to think that we have to have consistent opinions and that dissent is somehow intrinsically destructive.

In order to include others (including those who disagree with us), we have to be a gracious community.

Church is a community that recognises we don't always get it right.

We all fall short of our ideals. A central facet of the human condition is our propensity to mess up. So church needs to be a community too that recognises human frailty and seeks to move on and support people to try again. Our task is not to condemn failure or to ensure everyone thinks the same thing.

Our task as the Church is to love extravagantly, serve others ceaselessly and invest in becoming more like Jesus; more loving, joyful, peace seeking, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled.

Please continue to the next page for the discussion questions

Questions:

Following

- Who do you need to extend grace to?
- How easy do you find it to include those who hold different opinions to you? What could you do to include those who do not share your worldview?
- Which fruit of the spirit do you think best reflects you and which character trait do you need to work on?

Church

- How can the Church promote conversation and dialogue as a means to growing an ever deeper understanding of Jesus and the Bible?

Action

- What could your church do to intentionally support people to become loving, joyful, peace seeking, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled?