

Executive Pastor, Stephen Chang

Series: *Out of the Pew and Into the Purpose (Part 5 of 6)*

Sermon Title: The Reward of Participation – 1 Peter 4:10-11

Big Idea: Because God is restoring His people through Christ until the end, He calls every believer to steward the grace given to them for His glory.

Spring Term: Week 4 of 20

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**Ice breaker:** What's something you're responsible for managing or caring for in your everyday life (a project, relationship, role, or even a plant)? What makes that responsibility life-giving—or draining?

**Read and reflect on 1 Peter 4:10-11:**

<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion:**

1. Exiles With a Calling. Peter writes to believers who feel unsettled, pressured, and weary.

- How does the idea of being “exiles” (1 Peter 1:1; 1 Peter 4:10–11) resonate with your experience of following Jesus today?
- Where do you feel tempted to pull back or disengage when life gets complicated?

2. **God's Grace Is Distributed to Every Believer**

Peter begins with a radical assumption: *every believer has received a gift (1 Peter 4:10a)*. Additional Scripture: Romans 8:9–11, Ephesians 2:8–10.

- Why do you think it's hard to believe that every Christian has been entrusted with grace in the form of a gift?
- Pastor Stephen said, “Grace is not merely something that saves us; it is something that enlists us.” How does that reshape the way you think about following Jesus?
- Where do you feel tempted to believe that faithfulness means withdrawal or disengagement when life is hard?

3. **God's Grace Is Given for the Good of the Church**

Read 1 Peter 4:10b, spiritual gifts are not for self-expression, but for serving others as faithful stewards.

Additional Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 18; Romans 12:4–5.

- How does our culture typically define or value “gifts,” and how is Peter's vision different?
- Which tendency do you resonate with more—and why? Pride: “They need me.” Or, Insecurity: “I don't really matter here.”
- What would it look like to view your gifts primarily through the lens of love and interdependence rather than personal fulfillment?

4. **God's Grace Is Sustained by God's Power**

Read 1 Peter 4:11a, Peter reminds us that both speaking and serving must be done with dependence on God.

Additional Scripture: John 15:4–5, 2 Corinthians 12:9

## Community Group Sermon Notes January 25, 2026

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- Where do you see the difference between self-powered service and God-dependent service in your own life?
- What are some warning signs that service is being fueled more by obligation or self-reliance than by trust in God's strength?
- How does Jesus' example of dependence on the Father reframe what faithfulness looks like for us?

### 5. God's Grace Is Aimed at God's Glory Through Christ

Read 1 Peter 4:11b, The ultimate purpose of grace is that God would be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Additional Scripture: Colossians 3:17, John 20:21

- How does this purpose protect us from pride when things go well—and from despair when our service feels weak or unseen?
- Why is it good news that God's pleasure in our service rests on Jesus' perfection rather than our performance?

6. Pastor Stephen said this: We are Redeemed by Christ, the perfect servant. Empowered by the Spirit.

Awaiting the day when God's glory fills all things. And until that day, God sustains His church through ordinary believers faithfully stewarding grace. **The call is to join Jesus in what he's already doing.** Jesus said in **John 20:21**, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." So let me ask you, not as pressure, but as an invitation:

- Where has God entrusted you with grace?
- Who in this body needs that grace right now?
- Will you steward it, not in your strength, but in Christ's?

Because the whole counsel of God tells us this: God's grace saved us. God's grace sustains us. And God's grace sends us, for His glory, through Jesus Christ.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Gracious Father, Thank You for the grace that has saved us, sustains us, and sends us. We confess that we often rely on our own strength, compare ourselves to others, or doubt that we matter in Your church. Remind us that every gift comes from You and is given for the good of Your people. Teach us to steward Your grace faithfully, not for our glory, but for Yours—through Jesus Christ. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to serve with humility, joy, and dependence, until the day Your glory fills all things. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

### **Faith in Action:**

- January 31, New Members Course, 8:30 AM, A106
- February 1, Rooted Community Group Launch, 8:45 AM, A106
- February 1, Serve Fair, 10:15 & 11:45 AM, Lobby
- February 10, Adult Fellowship Luncheon, 12 PM, Gym (F100)
- Who do you know? Help us build the staff team God is calling, visit: [coswayne.org/join-our-team](https://coswayne.org/join-our-team)