

Nettleham Methodist Church
Cell Material
Week Beginning February 12th 2006
Theme: The power of the Cross and the justice of God

Welcome

Share about a time when you got more than you bargained for.

Word

In his book *What's so amazing about grace* Philip Yancey includes a chapter entitled 'The new Math(s) of grace'. In this chapter he argues that grace can seem potentially *unfair*. Much of the rest of the book explores the idea that grace is 'unnatural'.

Many of us can list attributes and characteristics of God such as His love and compassion, His mercy and grace, His holiness and justice, His sovereignty and power...but tend to emphasise some at the expense of others - perhaps we even unconsciously develop a hierarchy of Godly characteristics. Certainly Jesus claimed that the whole of the law could be summed up by the law of love Matt 22:37-40. We need however to ensure that we appreciate all the characteristics of God in order to maintain a balanced and correct understanding of our 'favourite' attributes.

The cross is about the love and justice of a holy God. It is about authority and compassion, about forgiveness and reconciliation. Miss out on the whole message and we miss out!

Key Passages

Is 6:1-5, Ecc 7:20, Is 53:6, Matt 9:35-36, Rom 6:23, Rom 3:22,23,
Rom 5:6-8, Jn 15: 13-17

The dictionary definition of *power* includes the following, 'the ability to do something', 'the capacity for producing an effect' and 'the authority to command'. Given these definitions we might ask, about the power of the cross

- What does the cross uniquely do?
- What effect does it produce?
- Why does the cross have authority...and do we have any?

Worship

Take time to reflect on the love and sacrifice of Jesus

- Spend time in thanks/adoration
- Sing / listen to a song
- Use some instrumental music and meditate or offer up simple expressions of praise

Witness

Consider how we need to employ Jesus model of sacrificial love and forgiveness. Pray for one another, and others, that God would bring His reconciliation into broken and needy lives.