

**Edgewater Growth Groups / Week 3**  
**Philippians 1v7-8**  
**Creating Space for Mercy and Grace**

‘In your relationships with one another  
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.’

***Philippians 2v5***

How do you go about putting this verse into practice?

What does this look like with skin on it? (explore the mindset of Christ revealed to us in the gospels; how did he treat the outsider? Look at some of his teachings in the sermon on the mount - **Matt 5-7**)

Spend some time spinning this out together.....

When Paul says, ‘***all of you share in God’s grace with me,***’ how does this shape his thinking, acting and feeling (His Phronesis)?

All of us have been on the receiving end of God’s grace

How has this changed the way in which you have chosen to see others?  
Do you see yourself resisting this?

In what ways is it difficult for you to see others through the lens of grace?

***Grace Changes Everything.....***

Explain the difference between knowing about the grace and mercy of God and actually knowing the grace and mercy of God?

Spend some time putting skin on this

## ***The Splagnon of Jesus***

Paul is describing a deep level of compassion and affection that he is feeling towards his friends in Philippi. It's the same kind of compassion that Jesus felt when he looked upon those who were suffering and oppressed. (coming from the bowels and intestines - awesome imagery!)

He uses phrases like.....

*It is right for me to think, act and feel this way about all of you*

*I have you in my heart*

*God can testify how I long for all of you*

*with the **affection** and **compassion** of Christ Jesus*

Paul is in chains as he is putting pen to paper.

How in the heck can he say this with even an ounce of integrity?

What is shaping his perspective? (remember - the church in Philippi was full of people - and people were most likely just as annoying as they are today)

We talked about creating space for mercy and grace to live and dwell in our lives.  
What does that mean?

How do we go about doing that?