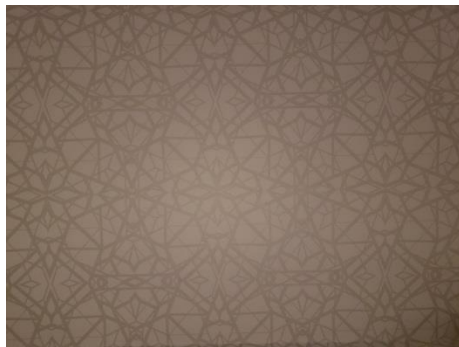


Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 1

Tuesday, April 13



Wallpaper

How do patterns help us? Why do they matter? Here are some of Merriam-Webster's definitions:

noun pat·tern | \ 'pa-tərn \

1: a form or model proposed for imitation **2:** something designed or used as a model for making things **3:** an artistic, musical, literary, or mechanical design or form **4:** a natural or chance configuration **5:** a reliable sample of traits, acts, tendencies, or other observable characteristics of a person, group, or institution **6:** a discernible coherent system based on the intended interrelationship of component parts **7:** frequent or widespread incidence

As you walk this Christian journey, you watch for those folks ahead of you who have been living this life of faith longer. They do things that model for you how to pray, respond, understand, and grow closer to God. We need mentors of the faith. And as we unpack this definition we can see many other patterns that are helpful. In fact, this passage from Philippians 2:1-11 allows us to see the patterns in Christ's life which then can become patterns for living our own life with grace and gratitude. May these words find space in your heart today.

Here is the passage:

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:1-11*