

# Welcome

to



**GraceUnion**  
CHURCH

Encountering Grace through Jesus, right where we are.  
Being moved by Grace toward all God has for us.

3900 Union Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125 | [graceunionstl.org](http://graceunionstl.org)  
Email: [graceunionstl@gmail.com](mailto:graceunionstl@gmail.com) | Phone: 314.892.2757

## Good News For Hard Heads, Part 12: Waging War

*2 Corinthians 10:1-11* "By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" toward you when away! I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete. You are judging by appearances. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do. So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing." Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present."

Paul says, "WE BELONG to Christ" and "I boast freely about the authority THE LORD GAVE US." Paul, out of humility, gives all credit to the Lord, and you can find evidence of that throughout all of his writings.

*James 1:17* "Every good and perfect gift comes from above."

*Ephesians 6:12* "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

What Paul is addressing here isn't the issue they wanted him to deal with, but instead the issue that the issue brought out of people. There are things that we cannot see that we think are our tools to deal with people, but are actually our restraints that keep experiencing our purpose.

In truth, you're not getting hit by the person themselves, you're being attacked by what's controlling their heart on a spiritual level, and they're getting hit by what's controlling yours.

*Acts 17:16-27* "While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So

you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’”

Paul sought to understand them before he asked them to understand him.

Ultimately ask yourself, “Am I trying to accomplish my goals, or God’s goals?” “Am I trying to win, or trying to love?”

## WAYS TO GIVE



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*Offering/Giving Box*



### **TEXT TO GIVE**

*314.888.5188*

*Tithe-Missions-Hub*



### **ONLINE**

*graceunionstl.org*

## OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

- **Rev. Bob Poley, Lead Pastor**  
*bobpoley78@gmail.com*
- **Rev. Jason Myers, Associate Pastor**  
*jscott5157@gmail.com*
- **Rev. Josh Quick, Youth Pastor**  
*jquickgu@gmail.com*
- **Crystal Myers, Early Childhood Director**  
*crystaldawnmyers@gmail.com*
- **Carrie Clifton, Publications & Media**  
*lcclifton@aol.com*