

20. Learning accents

The musical score is in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. Each system has a treble staff and a bass staff. The bass staff in all systems contains a simple four-measure pattern of whole notes. The treble staff in the first system has a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The second and third systems have different treble staff patterns, also with accents.

Things to learn:

Name the notes:

What are the chords in this piece:

School of grace:

Expectations

We all have them. But just like the stock market there are days when expectations are met and others when we are surprised, both good and bad. A piece of music relies entirely on the expectations of the composer, the performer and the audience. A good piece to one is a bad piece to another because of expectations. We also listen to music, expecting different things. When we don't have these expectations met we sit up and try to get ourselves back into the flow of the tune.

Expectations of God are far more serious because we are finding these continually challenged by grace. God wasn't doing what we wanted or expected. We also have expectations of ourselves, of our church, of our denomination, of our leaders. But when we find these expectations unmet we find ourselves condemning these individuals for their failure.

But what if we had different expectations? What if we had expectations that they would fail? Would that make us be more compassionate to them?

Grace was totally unexpected to us. It goes against every grain of our human formulas. It removes the conditions that we think are necessary of God to work. It challenges us because it continually remains foreign to us.