



Grace Hill Church

The Mission of Grace Hill Is to Gather People to the Table of Christ, Who Is the Bread of Life, to Be Transformed by His Grace, Renewed in His Truth, and Sent on His Mission.

Jesus is not siding with any of the disputants, an act that would have meant antagonizing the adherents of other positions (as the Pharisees had hoped he would do). Rather, he was rejecting them all and calling on his hearers to take seriously the Scripture that they professed to respect. ~Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to Matthew*

"He [God] didn't really create male and female. He just created two groups and whatever those groups wanted to identify as or whatever those two groups wanted to do, that was completely their choice because there was no such thing as male or female." ~Notthebee.com, 05/11/21

If God has joined them together, according to the structure of his own creation, divorce is not only "unnatural" but rebellion against God. God and man are so far apart on this issue that what God unites, man divides. ~D. A. Carson, "Matthew," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*

...if a choice must be made between the biblical position on homosexuality and the love command—and such a choice is often inevitable—the latter must receive precedence. Andrie du Toit, in Loader, *Sexuality in the New Testament*, 7.

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. Eph 5.31-32

August 15, 2021

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #31

Question: What do we believe by true faith?

Answer: Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles' Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Welcoming Each Other

Giving Worship to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Matthew 19.1-12*

Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ² And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" ⁴ He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

⁷ They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" ⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

¹⁰ The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." ¹¹ But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

Sermon: *Jesus' Sexual Ethic*

Outline:

1. Jesus Answers the Most Pressing Sexual Issue of His Day and Ours, v. 3-6
 - a. "Have you not read:" External, Not Internal Truth, v.4
 - b. "He Who Created" and "From the Beginning:" God's Original Purpose: v. 4
 - c. "Male and Female:" God's Intention, v. 4
 - d. "Leave," "Join," and "one flesh:" Marriage is a Permanent and Powerful New Union, v. 5
 - e. These Four Elements Help Answer All Questions of Sexual Ethics for Followers of Jesus
2. But the Pharisees, the Disciples, and We Do Not Like Jesus' Answer, v. 7-9
 - a. Later Scriptures (even if interpreted properly) Do Not Change Gen 1-2 Intentions, v. 7-8
 - b. Jesus Has an Answer for Human Desire and Struggle, v. 10-12
3. We Must Apply but We Must Also Treasure the Bride Groom

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

God, sometimes we are confused, frequently obstinate, often self-centered. Just like Jesus' day, we have many voices attempting to sway us. But we believe that Jesus is not only our Savior but our helper and leader for the difficulties we have within us and without us. Forgive us for our wrong desires and lead us, sweet and strong Savior.

Father, thank You that You have revealed Your truth to us, that you have created us with wonderful purpose, male and female, for permanent wonderful union. Holy Spirit, enable us to turn and listen to You in all things, including issues of sexuality. Thank You that You use human marriage as the sign of the relationship You want with Your people. Jesus help us to not only look to You as our perfect truth teller but also respond to You as the glorious bridegroom who left heaven to come and be engaged to us.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

...as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ~Eph. 5.25-17

Responding to the Lord with Worship

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13.20–21)

Additional Quotes:

The doctrine of Christ is not the starting point, but it certainly is the central point of the whole system of dogmatics. All other dogmas either prepare for it or are inferred from it. In it, as the heart of dogmatics, pulses the whole of the religious-ethical life of Christianity. ~Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 3.274

As the word of God it stands on a level high above all human authority in state and society, science and art. Before it, all else must yield. For people must obey God rather than other people. All other [human] authority is restricted to its own circle and applies only to its own area. But the authority of Scripture extends to the whole person and over all humankind. It is above the intellect and the will, the heart and the conscience, and cannot be compared with any other authority. Its authority, being divine, is absolute. It is entitled to be believed and obeyed by everyone at all times. In majesty it far transcends all other powers. But, in order to gain recognition and dominion, it asks for no one's assistance. It does not need the strong arm of the government. It does not need the support of the church and does not conscript anyone's sword and inquisition. It does not desire to rule by coercion and violence, but seeks free and willing recognition. For that reason it brings its own recognition by the working of the Holy Spirit. Scripture guards its own authority. ~Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, I.465

Core Questions:

1. How is the Holy Spirit whispering or shouting to you from this passage? What stands out for you?
2. How does the text intersect or engage your life?
3. Where do you find gospel conviction and gospel comfort in this passage? (Gospel = the specific act of Jesus taking your sin and sharing with you his victory.)

Announcements:

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Renewed Covid Policy: Starts 8/12/21. Goal: robust, Christ-centered, gathered worship**
 - To continue our in-person worship and provide for the health of our community, masks are required at all indoor public gatherings starting Thursday, August 12th, 2021.
- **Worship in Offering:** Three ways to worship the Lord with your tithes and offerings
 - Use your bank's BillPay system to give to Grace Hill
 - Send a physical check
 - Use our mobile giving option (either as a guest or by setting up an account):
 - <https://faithlife.com/grace-hill-church/give> or text the word "Give" to 919 296 1330.



Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14–18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached at ross@gracehillnc.org or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, daniel@gracehillnc.org. Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, kayli@gracehillnc.org. Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 www.gracehillnc.org; Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc