



# 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.*

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”<sup>5</sup> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. 1 Cor. 8:4–6

As the first act in the great drama of Scripture, creation is fundamental to all that follows, and our reading of the Bible will inevitably be deficient without a robust, Biblical doctrine of creation. ~Bartholomew and Ashford, *The Doctrine of Creation*, p. x.

Biblical teaching on human dignity is rooted in the doctrine of creation. By creating man and woman in his image and likeness (Gen 1:26–28), God bestowed on all humanity a great dignity and a great humility. Our great dignity is that we are somehow *like* God, while our great humility is that we are *not* God. ~Bartholomew and Ashford, *The Doctrine of Creation*, p. 363.

September 19, 2021

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

### Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #36

**Question:** What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants him irrevocably to all who believe.

### Baptism of Elijah James Carr

#### Welcoming Each Other

#### Giving Worship to God: Offering

#### Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Nehemiah 9:5-6, Genesis 1:1-5, 26-28, 31, 2:1-2*

Then the Levites ... said, “Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

<sup>6</sup> “You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

#### *Genesis 1:1-5*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

#### *Genesis 1:26-28, 31*

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ... <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. **2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

### Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives

**Series:** God’s Story Helps Us Pray, Pray to Live in God’s Story: Neh. 9 and Acts 4

**Sermon:** *Creation Helps Us Pray*

Outline:

1. Creation is the First Chapter in the Grand Gospel Story and it Helps Solve Our Problems
2. God as the Unique Creator Helps Us Praise Him with Awe
3. Creation Helps Us Pray
  - a. Approach: “Glorious Lord, I am in Awe at Uniqueness and Power”
  - b. Praise: “Everything in Existence is from You or through the Resource You Gave Us”
  - c. Thanksgiving: “Thank You for how Your Beauty, Order, Glory Enables ...”
  - d. Confession: “I Don’t Worship You As I Ought, As I Was Created to Do”
  - e. Petition: “God, You are More than Powerful Enough to Help me”
  - f. Petition: “God, You are More than Worthy for Me to Stand Up and Worship You,” v.5

## **Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin**

### **Public Prayer**

God, we so often fail to live with our eyes wide open to Your uniqueness and Your power in creation. We fail to realize that You as Creator both helps solve our problems and enables our joys. Without You, we would have only fabricated value, purpose, and meaning--but with You we abound so greatly in these. Forgive us.

Father, we want to know You better as the Only God and as the Creator. In a sea of many gods, lords and boasts, our rudder is a passionate conviction that You, the Only God, have made us and reached out to us in Jesus Christ. By Your Holy Spirit enable us to personally feel and receive and live the value, purpose, and meaning that comes from You as Creator. May it make a difference is how we pray, live, hope, and dream today.

### **Private Reflection**

#### **The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ**

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. ~Psalm 146:5-10

### **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)

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#### **Additional Quotes:**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. ~Heb. 11:1-3

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup>who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, ““Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?” ~Acts 4:23-25

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ~John 1:1-5

“What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies. For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!” ~Hab. 2:18

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. ~Nicene Creed

#### **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 = Great Exchange)**

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#### **Announcements:**

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Women’s Bible Study:** Join the Grace Hill women’s Bible study this fall as they embark on a 9-week study on the Old Testament and how it relates to the Christian faith. Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30. Please come and invite friends! Contact [cathywoodurham@gmail.com](mailto:cathywoodurham@gmail.com) or [kaylynfernandez@hotmail.com](mailto:kaylynfernandez@hotmail.com).
- **World Relief Opportunity:** Grace Hill is going to have a Zoom meeting this upcoming Thursday (September 23rd) from 4-5pm with the Community Engagement Manager from World Relief to talk about the ways that Grace Hill can support World Relief's efforts with Afghan refugees. Anyone interested in joining this call can email Timber Ashby ([timberbeeninga@gmail.com](mailto:timberbeeninga@gmail.com)) and she will send you the Zoom link!
- **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@gracehillinc.org](mailto:ross@gracehillinc.org) or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, [daniel@gracehillinc.org](mailto:daniel@gracehillinc.org). Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillinc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillinc.org). Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillinc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillinc.org). Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 [www.gracehillinc.org](http://www.gracehillinc.org); Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillinc