

Worship

May 8, 2011

But you have met the phenomenon of an Inner Ring. You discovered one in your house at school before the end of the first term. And when you had climbed up to somewhere near it by the end of your second year, perhaps you discovered that within the ring there was a Ring yet more inner, which in its turn was the fringe of the great school Ring ... I believe that in all men's lives at certain periods, and in many men's lives at all periods between infancy and extreme old age, one of the most dominant elements is the desire to be inside the local Ring and the terror of being left outside. (C. S. Lewis, *The Inner Ring*)

Unless you take measures to prevent it, this desire is going to be one of the chief motives of your life, from the first day on which you enter your profession until the day when you are too old to care. ... Of all the passions, the passion for the Inner Ring is most skillful in making a man who is not yet a very bad man do very bad things. ... As long as you are governed by that desire you will never get what you want. You are trying to peel an onion: if you succeed there will be nothing left. Until you conquer the fear of being an outsider, an outsider you will remain. (C. S. Lewis, *The Inner Ring*)

You want is to keep a sly self-congratulation mixing with all his thoughts and never allow him to raise the question "What, precisely, am I congratulating myself about?" The idea of belonging to an inner ring, of being in a secret, is very sweet to him. Play on that nerve. Teach him... to adopt an air of amusement at the things the unbelievers say. Some theories which he may meet in modern Christian circles may here prove helpful; theories, I mean, that place the hope of society in some inner ring of "clerks", some trained minority of theocrats. It is no affair of yours whether those theories are true or false; the great thing is to make Christianity a mystery religion in which he feels himself one of the initiates. (C. S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*)

Welcome, Prelude and Time for Reflection

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Confession of Faith (Nicene Creed, 4th c.)

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Children's Worship)

Giving Back to God: Offering

Please use the tear-off on the back so we can let you know about up coming events. Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our community; our budget maintains for twenty percent of gifts to go to works of local and global mission.

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading Galatians 4.21 - 31

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon *Belonging*

1. Are We Still Trying to Belong?
2. How Do We Try?
3. To What Do We Belong?



Grace Hill Church

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Lord, we confess we long to belong. If we can have “that,” if we can be received by “them, then we will be satisfied. And so we confess belonging to you--“being known by you”--so often means little to us. Like Abraham and Sarah, we think you either cruel, forgetful or weak, unable to deliver on your promise or satisfy our desires. We fill our barrenness one way or another.

But Sarah and Abraham came to actually “belong”--having Isaac--only because you called them to “Belong” to You. Their barrenness was redeemed not by their efforts but by Your promise. And all your promises to us are ‘Yes’ in Jesus Christ. Show us the worth of Belonging to you through the sacrifice of your Son. Give us faith that your promises fulfill our desire to belong.

Private Reflection

Words of Forgiveness

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1.8-9)

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord’s Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a sign of remembrance, a holy sacrament, a means of grace, a spiritual meal for all who believe in Jesus.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus’ death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.

Love III (George Herbert, 1633)

<i>Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back, Guiltie of dust and sinne.</i>	<i>A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here: Love said, You shall be he.</i>	<i>Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame Go where it doth deserve.</i>
<i>But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack From my first entrance in,</i>	<i>I the unkinde, ungratefull? Ah my deare, I cannot look on thee.</i>	<i>And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame? My deare, then I will serve.</i>
<i>Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, If I lack'd any thing.</i>	<i>Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, Who made the eyes but I?</i>	<i>You must sit down, sayes Love, and taste my meat: So I did sit and eat.</i>

Responding with Song

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

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.” 2 Thess. 2: 16, 17

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, giving me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.



**Grace
Hill
Church**

Grace Hill is a church that seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (see John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of Christ’s grace and truth. Our pastor is Ross Durham; he can be reached by email at ross@gracehillchurch.net or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Worship Director is Michael Musser and our Children’s Ministry Co-Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez.

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Also feel free to ask any questions about
Grace Hill.

Please fill out the form to the right and place
in the offering basket during “Giving back to
God.”

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email address, and mailing address by txt to
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