

Worship

May 29, 2011

“I, who for fear of hell had condemned myself to such a prison [in the wilderness as a monk], thought myself often times to be dancing among young women, when I had no other company but scorpions and wild beasts. My face was pale with fasting, but my mind was inflamed with desires in my cold body, and although my flesh was half dead already, yet the flames of fleshly lust boiled within me.” (Jerome, quoted in Luther’s Commentary on Galatians.)

Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? (Gal 3.3)

The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it. (Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*)

I can resist everything but temptation. (Oscar Wilde, *Lady Windermere’s Fan*)

I generally avoid temptation unless I can’t resist it. (Mae West, *My Little Chickadee*)

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 5.16-26

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.

I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives: Sermon *Free From the Flesh*

Outline

1. What is the Flesh?
2. The Call to be Free From the Flesh.
3. The Results of the Flesh.
4. How to be Free From the Flesh.



Grace Hill Church

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, we confess that in us there is a mechanism that we turn to even more than we know. It is opposed to you, working out of a different faith, producing very different results. And our problem starts with a lack of conflict between the flesh and your Spirit. We pretend that “bad” people have a problem with the flesh, or we try to overcome it with new laws to be “good.”

But you say “Those who Belong to Christ have crucified the flesh.” Thank you that we belong to Your Son. Your gift to us includes that new identity. Help us to neither negotiate with the flesh nor try to contain it with laws. Rather, let your Spirit lead us to leave it on the cross, seeing it as the dangerous, rebellious mercenary that it is. Thank you Jesus for your Cross.

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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Grace Hill.

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