

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20.1-3)

You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. And you shall observe all my statutes and all my rules, and do them: I am the Lord." (Lev 19.36-37)

This collection of laws develops several clear theological themes. The goal of the sum of them is holiness; this is the basic command in the chapter. But the chapter shows what holiness should look like: devout worship, honesty, integrity, justice, charity, and love. (Alan Ross, Leviticus, p. 352.)

Realize, then, how significant it is that the Biblical writers introduce God as "a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows" (Psalm 68:4-5). This is one of the main things he does in the world. He identifies with the powerless, he takes up their cause. It is hard for us to understand how revolutionary this was in the ancient world. Sri Lankan scholar Vinoth Ramachandra calls this "scandalous justice." He writes that in virtually all the ancient cultures of the world, the power of the gods was channeled through and identified with the elites of society, the kings, priests, and military captains, not the outcasts. To oppose the leaders of society, then, was to oppose the gods. "But here, in Israel's rival vision," it is not high-ranking males but "the orphan, the widow, and the stranger" with whom Yahweh takes his stand. His power is exercised in history for their empowerment." So, from ancient times, the God of the Bible stood out from the gods of all other religions as a God on the side of the powerless, and of justice for the poor. (Keller, *Generous Justice*, p. 6.)

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack." (2Cor 8.13-15.)

June 9, 2013

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Testimony of Calling: Tony Fernandez

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. Twenty percent of gifts also go to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Leviticus 19.1-18*

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. 3 Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God. 4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the Lord your God.

5 "When you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord, you shall offer it so that you may be accepted. 6 It shall be eaten the same day you offer it or on the day after, and anything left over until the third day shall be burned up with fire. 7 If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is tainted; it will not be accepted, 8 and everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned what is holy to the Lord, and that person shall be cut off from his people.

9 "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. 10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

11 "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. 12 You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

13 "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. 14 You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

15 "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

17 "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Justice Driven Integrally by God's Character

1. Is Justice Integral?
2. Is Justice Applicable?
3. Is Justice Doable?

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6.12,13)

Father, the apostle Peter quotes to us your words in Leviticus, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1.16). We confess we need a comprehensive vision of your call to holiness: "devout worship, honesty, integrity, justice, charity, and love." You have ransomed us in the climax of your covenant, not with perishable things, but with the precious blood of Christ. Help us to obey your truth and love justice and one another earnestly from a pure heart.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7.18-19)

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 spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

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.*

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, to give 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.

Grace Hill Financial Information:

Average Monthly expenses:	\$14,400
May 2013 giving:	17,066
Average Monthly 2011 giving:	11,621
Average Monthly 2012 giving:	13,664
YTD operating budget balance:	(\$7360)

Announcements and Information:

- Pray for Backyard Bible Club, June 17 - 20, see Kaylyn Fernandez with any questions.
- Pray for Members of our Provisional Session:
 - Doug Chism: d-chism@triad.rr.com
 - Stephen Eckel: seckel@unch.unc.edu
 - Steve Brown: sjbrown1963@gmail.com
- Pray for our Congregational Committee
- Pray for Tutoring, every Wednesday starting July 10th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, for seven weeks.



**Grace
Hill
Church**

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 denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth.

Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached by email ross@gracehillchurch.net or by cell phone at 919.593.2169.

Our Worship Music Director is Michael Musser (mike@gracehillchurch.net) and our Children's Ministry Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez (robyn@ and kaylyn@gracehillchurch.net)

Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 **Phone:** 919.617.1792

Web: www.gracehillchurch.net

Facebook: Grace Hill Church

Twitter: @gracehillchurch