

Grace Hill Church

Grace flows from the cross of Christ

July 18, 2010

And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD. Hosea 2:19–20 (ESV)

"He was eating his gruel without savoring it. It wouldn't do him any good."
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, p. 85.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Isaiah 25:6–9 (ESV)

Welcome

Prelude and Time for Reflection

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song (see sheet)

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

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of 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 arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand Of God the Father Almighty, from where He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen. (* Universal church)

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to their classrooms)

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Eternally loving God, whose promise to us is never broken; we confess that we fail in following you. Though you have bound yourself to us, we run from your embrace. In Jesus Christ you love us freely, but we refuse your affection and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you have called us.

Eternally faithful Father, in your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Repair and renew our relationship not on the basis of our commitment to change, but on the basis of Jesus' work on the cross for us. Lead us once again into your arms and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the lover of our souls. Lord, have mercy on us for Christ's sake. Amen.

Private Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory. *2 Corinthians 3:17-18*

Giving Back to God: Offering

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5.18-33

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon: *Oh, What an Intimate Love*



Ephesians 5:18–33 (ESV)

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Outline

1. Christ and The Church: Married
2. Wives and Husbands
3. The Highest Value of the Church is Intimacy with God
 - a. What is God love like?
 - b. What is Christ’s love like?
 - c. What is the Church called to?
4. So what do you think?

Q: What are your impressions of intimacy being the highest call of the church? How often do you think of Christianity or your faith like that?

Q: What help you nurture intimacy with Christ?

Q: Intimacy is one reason we have built in times of reflection. Are they helpful, uncomfortable or difficult? How are you using them?
5. The Spousal Love of Jesus

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord’s Supper (Juice in the outer ring; wine in inner rings)

- (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. Even if you are not taking the bread and cup, please come forward for prayer. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, 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 use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.)

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, 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.

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 is a church that 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 both Christ’s grace and truth. Website: gracehillchurch.net; Facebook Group: Grace Hill Church News; Twitter: [Gracehillchurch](https://twitter.com/Gracehillchurch) Worship and Office Location: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Ste. 500, Hillsborough, NC 27278 Pastor: Ross Durham. C) 919 593-2169. B) 919 617-1792. Email: ross@gracehillchurch.net Worship Director: Michael Musser; Children’s Ministry Co-Directors: Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez

Please let us know about your visit with us. Also feel free to ask any questions about Grace Hill:

- Please send your name, email address, and mailing address via txt to 919 593 2169 or email to info@gracehillchurch.net.

Or

- Fill out the following and place in the basket during “Giving back to God.”

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

