



# 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.*

- 5.1 The office of deacon as set forth in the Scriptures is ordinary and perpetual in the Church. The office of deacon is one of sympathy and service after the example of Christ.
- 5.2 To this office should be chosen individuals who are faithful and diligent Christians of good character, of honest repute, exemplary life, brotherly love, sympathetic nature, and sound judgment, who are qualified under the standards recorded in Scripture. ~ARPC *Form of Government*, 5.1-2.

The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ~1 Tim 5.17

“Deacon: gener. one who is busy with someth. in a manner that is of assistance to someone. BDAG, *Greek Lexicon*, 230

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. Romans 16.1

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ~1 Timothy 2.12

August 22, 2021

## Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

### Declaring What We Believe: New City Catechism, Question #32

**Question:** What do justification and sanctification mean?

**Answer:** Justification means our declared righteousness before God, made possible by Christ's death and resurrection for us. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness, made possible by the Spirit's work in us.

## Welcoming Each Other

### Giving Worship to God: Offering

### Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading 1 Timothy 3.1-16 (NIV 2011)

<sup>3</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. <sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup> In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup> They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, the women [lit. women] are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup> A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. <sup>13</sup> Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>14</sup> Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, <sup>15</sup> if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. <sup>16</sup> Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh,  
was vindicated by the Spirit,  
was seen by angels,  
was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
was taken up in glory.

## Understanding God's Word and Our Lives

**Sermon:** *The Biblical Office of Deacons*

Outline:

1. God Gives Elders and Deacons for His Work in His Church, v. 14-15
  - a. The Different Roles of Elders and Deacons
2. Who Should Serve as Deacons?
3. What are the Qualifications for Deacons? v. 8-12
4. Elders and Deacons Exist for the Church of the Living God by the Work of Christ, v. 16

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

### **Public Prayer**

Lord, by nature some of us tend towards low structure and others to high structure. But You have spoken to the organization you desire for Your church in the positions of elder and deacon. They do not come from personality types, culture or tradition but from You because the Church is Your gathered people—the people of the living God. We want to hear Your words.

Father, You have gathered Your people to know You who is the truth—and to live in and bear witness to Your truth. Help us each to use the gifts that You have given us with faith and courage. Whether in the office of elder or deacon or other roles in or outside of Your church, give us grace and the fullness of Your Spirit to serve You for Your purposes for the glory of Jesus.

### **Private Reflection**

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

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ~Eph. 1.7-10

## **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.

We are currently celebrating the Lord's Supper by remaining 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.

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

## **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 let me know the reality of your love and glory. Give me an understanding of you that is captivating, convincing—that leads to You Yourself and the life You promise. Amen.

## **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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### **Announcements:**

- **CORE Zoom Pin: 989209**
- **Renewed Covid Policy: Starts 8/12/21.** Goal: robust, Christ-centered, gathered worship
- To continue our in-person worship and provide for the health of our community, masks are required at all indoor public gatherings starting Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- **Love Our Neighbor in Faithful Mission:** World Relief is working to help Afghan refugees coming to Durham. Sign up to get involved. <https://worldrelief.org/durham/get-involved/volunteer-application/>
- **Use PrayerCast.com to pray for Afghanistan and Haiti.**
- **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@gracehillnc.org](mailto:ross@gracehillnc.org) or by cell phone at 919.593.2169. Our Youth Director is Daniel Havener, [daniel@gracehillnc.org](mailto:daniel@gracehillnc.org). Our Worship Music Director is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org). Our Communications Coordinator is Kayli Havener, [kayli@gracehillnc.org](mailto:kayli@gracehillnc.org). Address: 515 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 500, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278 [www.gracehillnc.org](http://www.gracehillnc.org); Facebook: Grace Hill Church; Twitter: @gracehillchurch; Instagram: gracehillnc