

February 24, 2019

Growing Into Christlikeness
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The command Be ye perfect is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command.... He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness. The process will be long and in parts very painful; but that is what we are in for. Nothing less. He meant what He said.

C.S. Lewis

20th century British apologist, professor, literary critic,
and author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*

Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply that: nothing else.

C.S. Lewis

20th century British apologist, professor, literary critic,
and author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*

You therefore
must be perfect,
as your heavenly
Father is perfect.
Matthew 5:48

For those whom
he foreknew he also
predestined to be
conformed to the image of his
Son, in order that he might be
the firstborn among many
brothers.

Romans 8:29

Therefore, preparing
your minds for action, and
being sober-minded, set your
hope fully on the grace that will be
brought to you at the revelation of Jesus
Christ. As obedient children, do not be
conformed to the passions of your former
ignorance, but as he who called you is
holy, you also be holy in all your
conduct, since it is written, "You
shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 1:13-16

On the other hand, you must realize from the outset that the goal towards which He is beginning to guide you is absolute perfection; and no power in the whole universe, except you yourself, can prevent Him from taking you to that goal. That is what you are in for. And it is very important to realize that. If we do not, then we are very likely to start pulling back and resisting Him after a certain point. I think that many of us, when Christ has enabled us to overcome one or two sins that were an obvious nuisance, are inclined to feel (though we do not put it into words) that we are now good enough. He has done all we wanted Him to do, and we should be obliged if He would now leave us alone. As we say 'I never expected to be a saint, I only wanted to be a decent ordinary chap.' And we imagine when we say this that we are being humble. But this is the fatal mistake. Of course we never wanted, and never asked, to be made into the sort of creatures He is going to make us into. But the question is not what we intended ourselves to be, but what He intended us to be when He made us.... We may be content to remain what we call 'ordinary people': but He is determined to carry out a quite different plan. To shrink back from that plan is not humility; it is laziness and cowardice. To submit to it is not conceit or megalomania; it is obedience.

C.S. Lewis

20th century British apologist, professor, literary critic, and author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

People: **We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.**

1 Corinthians 15
Romans 6
Psalm 105

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

People: **Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

We seek the Lord and rejoice

"Come, People of the Risen King"



1. Come, peo - ple of the ri - sen King, who de - light to bring him praise; come,
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing in the night; come,
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wo - men of the faith; come,



all, and tune your harps to sing to the Mor - ning Star of grace. From the
those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight. For his
those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his grace. O - ver



shift - ing sha - dows of the earth we will lift our eyes to him, where
per - fect love will nev - er change, and his mer - cies nev - er cease, but
all the world his peo - ple sing; shore to shore we hear them call the



stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to ga - ther chil - dren in. Re -
fol - low us through all our days with the cer - tain hope of peace.
truth that cries through ev - 'ry age: "Our God is all in all!"



joyce! Re - joyce! Let ev - 'ry tongue re - joyce! One heart, one



voice; O church of Christ re - joyce!

Jesus Christ is the perfect display of God's grace and glory and therefore he is the ultimate call to worship.

"O for a Thousand Tongues"

1.O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the
 2.My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim, to
 3.Je-sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease; 'tis
 4.He breaks the pow'r of reign-ing sin, he sets the pris-ner free; his

6.glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace.
 spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of thy name.
 mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 blood can make the foul-est clean, his blood a-vailed for me.

10.5.He speaks and, list-'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-
 6.Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loos-en'd tongues em-

ceive; the mourn-ful bro-ken hearts re-joyce; the hum-ble poor be-lieve.
 play; ye blind, be-hold your Sav-ior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

Sing praises to the
 LORD, who sits
 enthroned in Zion!
 Tell among the
 peoples his
 deeds!
 Psalm 9

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God cries out of his mercy in the face of our sin

God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one... "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Psalms 53
Joel 2

We return to the Lord our God confessing our sin, our failure to seek him

We use this time in God's presence to confess our sins and our need for God's grace, silently, personally before him alone. We invite you to join us in sorrow over your sin and joy in his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

Worship must include a recognition of our sin. Without it our worship lacks integrity. Honesty demands that when we approach God, we confess our sins that offend him.

God proclaims he gives us his mercy, not because we deserve it, but as a gift

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2

We rejoice in the richness of his mercy, his great love with which he loved us

“Thy Mercy, My God”

I will sing of the steadfast love [mercy] of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
Psalm 89



1. Thy mer - cy, my God, is the theme of my song, the
 2. With - out thy sweet mer - cy I could not live here;
 3. Thy mer - cy is more than a match for my heart, which
 4. Great Fath - er of mer - cies, thy good - ness I own, and the



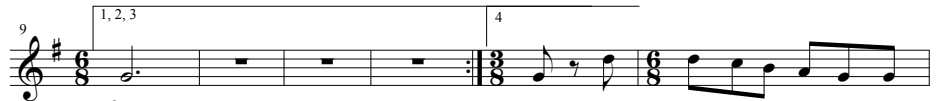
joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue; thy
 sin would re - duce me to ut - ter des - pair, but
 won - ders to feel its own hard - ness de - part; dis -
 cov - e - rant love of thy cru - ci - fied Son; all



free grace a - lone from the first to the last hath
 through thy free good - ness my spir - its re - vive and
 solved by thy good - ness, I fall to the ground and
 praise to the Spi - rit, whose whis - per di - vine seals



won my af - fec - tions and bound my soul
 he that first made me still keeps me a -
 weep for the praise of the mer - cy I've
 mer - cy and par - don and right - eous - ness



fast.
 live.
 found. mine; all praise to the Spi - rit, whose



whis - per di - vine seals mer - cy and par - don and right - eous - ness mine!

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1–14

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Sermon

Rev. John Meinen

Growing Into Christlikeness

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Information about
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be found at
rufvm.org.

We sing out for his power to work in us by his word, fashioning us in his likeness

“Speak, O Lord”



1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to you, to re - ceive the food of your
 2. Teach us Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly re - ver - ence, true hu -
 3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your



ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and
 mi - li - ty. — Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us. — Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will



fash - ion us _ in your like - ness. That the light of Christ might be
 ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on your



seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 eyes to see your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
 prom - is - es; — and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us — all your
 Words of pow'r that can ne - ver fail; let their
 Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the



pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Hebrews 1

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We walk in love, giving ourselves to the God who gave himself for us, by the giving of our tithes and offerings

We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith, putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim, that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.

We cry out that we would be imitators of God, not just individually, but corporately as the Church of Christ

"Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

1. Je - sus, with thy church a - bide; be her Sav - ior,
2. Keep her life and doct - rine pure; grant her pa - tience
3. May she one in doct - rine be, one in truth and
4. May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost un -

4
Lord, and guide, while on earth her faith is tried:
to en - dure, trust - ing in thy prom - ise sure:
char - i - ty, win - ning all to faith in thee:
til she find, and the bro - ken - heart - ed bind:

8
we be - seech thee, hear us. we be - seech thee, hear us.
we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.
we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.
we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.

I ended my first book with the words No answer. I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You are yourself the answer. Before your face questions die away.
C.S. Lewis

God conforms us to the image of his Son by the power of his Spirit at work as we celebrate the Lord's Supper

We celebrate God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ by observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday. We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized followers of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to one of the elders after the service.

Romans 8:27–39

²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The sacraments... are signs given the force of God's own promise, so that our participation in them is not an exercise in fantasy nor in transformation of consciousness. The sacraments certify *reality* for us, by the assurance of God's own Word.
Edmund Clowney

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We sing out for God in his great love to conform us to him, changing us from glory into glory

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled__breast;
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us__ be:

5

fix in us thy hum - ble__ dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies__ crown.
let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver more thy tem - ples leave.
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in__ thee;

9

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Take a - way the love of__ sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga__ be;
Thee we would be al - ways bles - sing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to__ glo - ry, 'till in heav'n we take our place,

13

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
End of faith, as its Be - gin - ning, set our hearts at li - ber - ty.
pray, and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glor - ry in thy per - fect__ love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and__ praise.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
John 15

Ephesians 1 & 6

We go out in his promise to make us like him

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed you in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose you in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company. This is a time to share in life together as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.

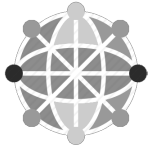
We go out from
worship in the
assurance of the
greatness of our
God, the one who
is able to do more
than we ask or
think, trusting in
his grace alone.



Welcome to Free Grace

We are a broken church full of broken people. We know we need God's free grace. Some of us have accepted this grace, some are exploring what it's all about. All of us are still trying to understand it. We are a church that seeks to proclaim this free grace of God with both our words and our lives. Not satisfied with simply talking about it, we want to live it out. We invite you to come, explore, and live God's free grace with us.

Our Connections



Free Grace is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a family of churches that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Our Leadership

Free Grace is lead by her elders, men called by God and set apart by the church to care and lead her as individual members, families, and as a whole. Our elders are:

Rev. Per Almquist (pastor)
Kevin Kidd
Ken Morris



Credits

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Grace Kidd, *voice*; Heather Kidd, *voice*; Millie Kidd, *piano*

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Christ is so wonderful that God determined that He was going to people the universe with an incredibly vast number of replicas of Christ, and we are the raw material of that plan.

Donald Grey Barnhouse
20th century Presbyterian pastor

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory