

**July 19, 2020**

**Disagreeable People**  
*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

We are to be tolerant of people, not necessarily of all their ideas and practices...Tolerance does not mean that we never try to persuade someone of the truth of an important idea. It does mean that we hold that person in respect, despite areas of disagreement.

Dick Keyes

pastor, author, and director of  
L'Abri Fellowship in Southborough, Massachusetts

So if  
there is any  
encouragement in Christ,  
any comfort from love, any  
participation in the Spirit, any  
affection and sympathy, complete my  
joy by being of the same mind, having  
the same love, being in full accord and  
of one mind. Do nothing from selfish  
ambition or conceit, but in humility  
count others more significant  
than yourselves.

**Philippians 2:1-3**

If then you have  
been raised with Christ,  
seek the things that are above,  
where Christ is, seated at the right  
hand of God. Set your minds on  
things that are above, not on things  
that are on earth. For you have  
died, and your life is hidden  
with Christ in God.

**Colossians 3:1-3**

The church is not the sum total of the decisions of its leaders. The Lord Jesus Christ is at the helm, and orders even the church's tragedies and disappointments for the good of his kingdom and for the glory of his name. As you look upon what can often seem to be a messy and disordered church, in whom is your trust and confidence?

Guy Waters  
NT scholar

Most importantly, the Bible teaches that we should see conflict neither as an inconvenience nor as an occasion for selfish gain, but rather as an opportunity to demonstrate the presence and power of God...It encourages us to look at conflict as an opportunity to glorify God, to serve others, and to grow to be like Christ.

Ken Sande

lawyer, mediator, and founder of Peacemaker Ministries

For this is the  
message that you have  
heard from the beginning, that  
we should love one another... We  
know that we have passed out of  
death into life, because we love the  
brothers. Whoever does not love  
abides in death. Everyone who hates  
his brother is a murderer, and you  
know that no murderer has  
eternal life abiding in him.

**1 John 3:11, 14-15**

Luke  
alone is with  
me. Get Mark and  
bring him with you, for  
he is very useful to  
me for ministry.

**2 Timothy 4:11**

Aristarchus  
my fellow prisoner  
greet you, and Mark the  
cousin of Barnabas (concerning  
whom you have received  
instructions—if he comes to  
you, welcome him).

**Colossians 4:10**

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung. All mankind has looked on it; man beholds it from afar.

**People: Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable.**

Job 36

Leader: For he draws up the drops of water; they distill his mist in rain, which the skies pour down and drop on mankind abundantly. Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion?

**People: Behold, he scatters his lightning about him and covers the roots of the sea.**

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Psalms 145

**People: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

## We bless and praise the name of our Great God and King

"Immortal, Invisible"

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise; in  
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light; nor  
3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, thine

5  
light in - ac - ces - si - ble, hid from our eyes; most  
want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy  
an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all

9  
bles - sed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Al -  
jus - tice like moun - tains, the high soar - ing a - bove; thy  
praise we would ren - der; O help us to see 'tis

13  
migh - ty, vic - tor - ious, thy great name we praise!  
clouds which are the foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

God's call to worship reminds us that he alone is worth worshipping. He alone is great beyond our comprehension. And he calls us to come to him and receive his gifts of grace through Jesus Christ.

---

# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

---

## God calls us to come to him by his grace and mercy alone

Matthew 11

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Isaiah 30

“In repentance and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.

To the world,  
repentance is  
looking backwards  
in shame, remorse,  
and regret at what  
our sin and failures  
cost us. For the  
Christian,  
repentance is  
looking forward to  
the one who took  
all that as his own  
and gave us  
himself instead. To  
the world  
repentance is  
about sorrow; to  
the Christian it is  
about joy.

## We repent and rest in Jesus Christ

*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.*

## We know his gracious love for us not in our love, but his love in Christ

1 John 3 & 4

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us...In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

We sing out in praise of his great love that gives us victory, life, through the death of Jesus Christ

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how  
2. Be - hold the man up - on a cross, my  
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing: no

2  
vast be - yond all meas - ure, that he should give his on - ly Son to  
sin up - on his shoul - ders; a - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call  
gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom; but I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his

4  
make a wretch his treas - ure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss; the  
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there un -  
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward? I

6  
Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the cho - sen One bring  
til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has brought me life; I  
can - not give an an - swer; but this I know with all my heart: his

8  
man - y sons to glo - ry.  
know that it is fin - ished.  
wounds have paid my ran - som. Why

12  
should I gain from his re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer; but

14  
this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
Romans 5

"Jesus, I Come"



1.Out of my bon - dage, sor-row, and night, Je-sus, I come; Je-sus, I come.  
 2.Out of my shame - ful fail - ure and loss, Je-sus, I come; Je-sus, I come.  
 3.Out of un - rest and ar - ro - gant pride, Je-sus, I come; Je-sus, I come.  
 4.Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je-sus, I come; Je-sus, I come.



In - to thy free - dom, glad - ness, and light, Je-sus, I come to thee.  
 In - to the glo - rious gain of thy cross, Je-sus, I come to thee.  
 In - to thy bless - ed will to a - bide, Je-sus, I come to thee.  
 In - to the joy and light of thy home, Je-sus, I come to thee.



Out of my sick - ness in - to thy health, out of my want-ing and in - to thy wealth,  
 Out of earth's sor - rows in - to thy balm, out of life's storms and in - to thy calm,  
 Out of my - self to dwell in thy love, out of de - spair, in - to rap-tures a - bove,  
 Out of the depths of ru - in un - told, in - to the peace of thy shel - ter - ing fold,



out of my sin and in - to thy - self, Je-sus, I come to thee.  
 out of dis - tress in - to jub - i - lant psalm, Je-sus, I come to thee.  
 up - ward for - ev - er on wings like a dove, Je-sus, I come to thee.  
 ev - er thy glo - rious face to be - hold, Je-sus, I come to thee.

The only way we  
 are able to come  
 before God is  
 through Jesus  
 Christ. The  
 amazing love of  
 Christ's death on  
 the cross was the  
 perfect sacrifice  
 which satisfied the  
 Father's justice.  
 This he gives us by  
 his free grace,  
 completely  
 unearned and  
 undeserved by us.

---

# GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

---

<sup>36</sup>And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." <sup>37</sup>Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. <sup>38</sup>But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup>And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, <sup>40</sup>but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup>And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Acts 15:36-16:5

<sup>1</sup>Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup>He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup>Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. <sup>4</sup>As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

## Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

### Disagreeable People

The Church that God Built

Why do we use so much Scripture in our worship?

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.  
2 Timothy 3

## We look to live the gospel, to witness to Jesus Christ, even in our disagreements

"Be Thou My Vision"



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 4. High King of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, O bright hea - ven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,  
 thou my great Fa - ther and I thy true son;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wa - king or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 High King of hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vis - ion, O Rul - er of all.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  
 Colossians 3



---

# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

---

## **We proclaim our communion with each other in the gospel as we celebrate our communion with Christ as we partake of the Lord's Supper**

*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 proclaim that you are in covenant relationship with God, 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. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ and so we follow his example.*

Here is love, vast as the ocean,  
Loving kindness as the flood,  
When the Prince of life, our ransom  
Shed for us his precious blood.  
Who his love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing his praise?  
He will never be forgotten  
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion  
Fountains opened deep and wide;  
Through the flood-gates of God's mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
Poured incessant from above;  
Heaven's peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Bond and pledge of sweet communion,  
All Christ's benefits divine,  
Here, ye saints, is offered freely  
In the bread and in the wine.  
Here is love, displayed in splendor,  
Body broken, blood outpoured;  
Signs and seals of mercy offered  
At the table of the Lord.

"Here is Love"

Communion is, of all the actions of worship, a uniquely corporate event. We can sing alone, or study Scripture alone, or pray alone, but nobody does Communion alone for it is our celebration that we are united to Jesus Christ, and in him, to each other.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."  
Matthew 16

## We give our tithes and offerings to declare that our lives are his

"All to Jesus I Surrender"

C F C G<sup>7</sup> Em G<sup>7</sup> C F C G<sup>7</sup> Em C

1. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;  
2. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, hum - bly at his feet I bow,  
3. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly thine;  
4. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;

F C G<sup>7</sup> Em G<sup>7</sup> C F C G<sup>7</sup> Em C

may I ev - er love and trust him, in his pres - ence dai - ly live.  
world - ly plea - sures all for - sak - en, take me, Je - sus, take me now.  
may thy Ho - ly Spir - it fill me, may I know thy pow'r di - vine.  
fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless - ing fall on me.

REFRAIN  
F C G G G<sup>7</sup> C

I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.  
I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.

F C F C/G G<sup>7</sup> C 7

All to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

**We come to God in prayer that we would live for his gospel alone**

*During this time we live in faith, trusting in the power of his grace,  
placing our lives and our church in his hands.  
We ask that he would work in us and through us for his glory.*

**GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE**

**We declare that we, the church, are one in Christ**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she  
2. Elect from every nation, yet one over all the earth, her  
3. 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she  
4. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and

is his new creation by water and the Word: from  
character of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth: one  
waits the consummation of peace for ever more; 'til  
my - stic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O

heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride; with  
ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food, and  
with the vi - sion glor - ious her long - ing eyes are blessed, and  
hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we, like

1. 2. 3.  
his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
the great church vic - tor - ious shall be the church at rest.  
them, the meek and low - ly, on

4  
high may dwell, that they will dwell, that we will dwell with thee.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.  
Ephesians 2

Romans 15  
1 Thessalonians 3

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 2

### **God speaks his blessing upon his people: our union in Christ to glorify him**

**Leader:** May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**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 the gospel calls us  
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*

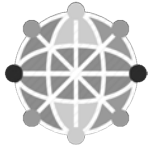




## Welcome to Free Grace

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)  
Brian Cosgrove  
Paul Martin  
Ken Morris  
Ben Van Dyke



## Credits

Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright ©2001 by

Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. All songs are used by permission. All rights are reserved by the copyright holders. All are used

according to CCLI license #11100390.

---

Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Scotty Almquist, *piano*; Beth Almquist, *voice*

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" Public Domain. Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867. Music: Traditional Welsh melody.

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us" ©1995 Thankyou Music. Words and music: Stuart Townsend, 1995.

"Jesus, I Come" ©2000 Greg Thompson. Words: William Sleeper, 1887. Music: Greg Thompson, 2000.

"Be Thou My Vision" Public Domain. Ancient Irish hymn.

"All to Jesus I Surrender" Public Domain. Words: Judson W. VanDeVenter, 1896, alt. 1990. Music: Winfield S. Weeden, 1896.

"The Church's One Foundation" ©1996 Parson John Publishing. Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866. Music: Brian Moss, 1996.

The words may be more  
sophisticated, but I am ashamed  
how many of my disagreements still  
boil down to “but I want it!”

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory