



**August 17th, 2025**

# God's Gift of New Eyes & Identity

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

When a man is in Christ, there is a new light in his mind, a new bent in his will, a new bias in his affections.

Anthony Burgess  
17th century English Puritan and Westminster divine

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 2:20**

Every believer is in Christ, and being in Christ he is a new creature. He is not only pardoned, but also renewed—he has a new name, a new heart, and walks in newness of life.

William Romaine  
18th century evangelical Anglican pastor

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Colossians 3:3-4**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Romans 12:2**

Regeneration does not consist in a change from one doctrine to another, from one conviction to another, but in a complete transformation of the entire person.

Herman Bavinck  
19th century Dutch Reformed theologian

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Romans 6:4**

The Christian is not just a good man. He is a new man. He is not just an improved man. He is a man who has been born again.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones  
20th century Welsh preacher and Reformed minister

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: What is man's primary purpose?

**People:** To glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Leader: So make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God!

**People:** It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**People:** For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Westminster Shorter  
Catechism Q#1

Psalms 100

## We come with praise to our God and King

"The God of Abraham Praise"

1. The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove, An -  
 2. The God of A - braham praise, whose su - preme com - mand from  
 3. He by him - self has sworn, I on his oath de - pend; I  
 4. The whole tri - um - phant host gives thanks to God on high; "Hail"

5  
 cient of ev - er - last - ing the days and God of right love, Je -  
 earth I rise, and seek the joys at his right hand, I shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend. I  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! they ev - er cry. Hail

9  
 ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed; I  
 all on earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r, and  
 shall be - hold his face, I shall his pow'r a - dore, and  
 Ab - braham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays; all

13  
 bow and bless the sa - cred name, for - ev - er blest.  
 him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
 sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er more.  
 might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

And I will establish  
my covenant  
between me and  
you and your  
offspring after you  
throughout their  
generations for an  
everlasting  
covenant, to be  
God to you and to  
your offspring  
after you.  
Genesis 17

"Jesus, Everlasting King"

Je - sus, ev-er-last - ing King, ac-cept the tri - bute which we bring;

ac-cept the well - de-served re-nown and wear our prais - es as your crown.

1. O send your Spir - it to im - part  
 2. The glad - ness of re - demp - tion's day;  
 3. May ev - 'ry time of wor - ship see  
 4. O that the months would roll a - way

rest our hearts,  
 our and stay,  
 and bring the cor - o - na - tion free, day;

like the dear hour, when from a - bove,  
 nor let our faith for - sake its hold,  
 till we are raised to sing your name  
 the King of grace shall fill the throne

we first re - ceived your pledge of love.  
 nor com - forts sink, or love grow cold.  
 at the great sup - per of the Lamb.  
 with all his Fa - ther's glo - ries on.

The goal of our worship is to glorify God. Worship is not about an experience or a feeling that I receive, but about proclaiming the mystery of the God who loves his people enough to come to them in the person of Jesus Christ.

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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## God declares our choosing to identify with the world over him

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4

## We confess our sin of rejecting his name for lesser names

*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.*

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.

## God declares our security which is found in our union with Christ

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death...For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor 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.

Romans 8

## We rejoice in his mercy that it is he who keeps us faithful

"He Will Hold Me Fast"

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; when the  
 2. Those he saves are his de-light, Christ will hold me fast; pre-cious  
 3. For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; jus-tice

tempt-er would pre-vail, He will hold me fast. I could nev-er  
 in his ho-ly sight, he will hold me fast. He'll not let my  
 has been sat-is-fied; he will hold me fast. Raised with him to

keep my hold through life's fear-ful path; for my love is of-ten  
 soul be lost; his Prom-is-es shall last; bought by him at such a  
 end-less life, he will hold me fast 'til our faith is turned to

cold; he must hold me fast.  
 cost, he will hold me fast. He will hold me fast, he will hold me  
 sight, when he comes at last!

fast; for my Sav-ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

I give them eternal  
 life, and they will  
 never perish, and  
 no one will snatch  
 them out of my  
 hand. My Father,  
 who has given  
 them to me, is  
 greater than all,  
 and no one is able  
 to snatch them out  
 of the Father's

hand.  
 John 10

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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[16] From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. [17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:16–17

## **God's Gift of New Eyes & Identity**

*Because we have been changed by God:*

1) We do not look at others in the same way (New Eyes):

Kevin DeYoung is a pastor and theologian in the Presbyterian Church in America, serving as senior pastor of Christ Covenant Church in Matthews, North Carolina. He also teaches systematic theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte. He and his wife, Trisha, have nine children. He recently served as Moderator of the PCA's 53rd General Assembly. This sermon was originally preached at General Assembly in 2022.

2) We do not look at ourselves in the same way (New Eyes):



# We ask God to give us eyes to see things as He sees

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.

As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4

**We respond with tithes, offerings and confess together according to the grace given to each of us:**

Heidelberg Catechism  
Question #1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**People:** That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,  
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Galatians 2:20

Leader: How then do you live this new life?

**People:** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live,  
but Christ who lives in me.

And the life I now live in the flesh

I live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The Heidelberg Catechism is a beloved Reformed teaching tool written in 1563 in the city of Heidelberg, Germany, to instruct believers in the essentials of the Christian faith. Structured around the themes of guilt, grace, and gratitude, it combines deep theological truth with warm, pastoral tone.

*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.*

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Westminster  
Shorter Catechism 98

# GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate our identity in Christ with one another

"We Are God's People"

To be one of  
God's people is to  
belong to the  
family of the  
redeemed, to be  
known and loved  
by the Father, and  
to be united to  
Christ and all his  
saints.

J.I. Packer

*Unison*

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his  
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have  
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -  
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is  
 known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how  
 bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a  
 weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -  
 to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each  
 fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our  
 on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.  
 joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.  
 gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.  
 flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

## **God pronounces our identity in Christ, the source of all our blessings**

Leader: Being found in him, not of your own righteousness, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God... in order that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. For you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Philippians 3  
Ephesians 2  
1 Peter 2

**People: Amen**

*Please stay and join us for a time of enjoying each other's company.*

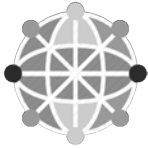
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us  
as we reconnect with those we know, and as we meet someone new*

A benediction is a pronouncement of God's blessing; We raise our hands, empty as they are, to testify that God alone can provide his promises. We receive with open hearts, that which only he can provide. saints.



## 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. Dr. Per Almquist  
Brian Cosgrove  
Rev. Adam Lee  
Ken Morris  
Ben Van Dyke



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Jacob Paris, *guitar*; Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Abigail Lee, *violin*

"The God of Abraham Praise" Public Domain. Words: Thomas Olivers, 1770. Music: Jewish melody arr. by Meyer Lyon, 1770.

"Jesus, Everlasting King" ©2003 detuned radio music. Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, alt. Music: Matthew S. Smith, 2003.

"He Will Hold Me Fast" ©2013 Getty Music Publishing and Matt Merker/BMI. Words: vv.1-2 Ada Habershon, alt. & words v3. Matt Merker, 1906, 2013. Music: Matt Merker, 2013.

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

"We Are God's People" ©1976 Fred Bock Music Co. Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976; Music: Johannes Brahms, 1876, arr. Fred Bock, 1976.

## **This Week In Focus:**

### **Sunday, August 17th-**

**Prayer Meeting-** 6:00pm at the church

### **Thursday- August 21st-**

**Conversations in Grace-** 7:00pm – At the church (bring your worship folder from last week as we discuss “Called to the Deep”).

### **Friday, August 22nd-**

**Youth Group -** 7:00pm – At the church

If you would like to be added to our church-family email where you can keep in touch through the week, please email Linda at [linda.morris@freegrace.us](mailto:linda.morris@freegrace.us)

If you are a church member and are not using the church directory app, you are missing out on a very useful tool. Please reach out to Linda to see how to download it to your phone.

## **Regular Rhythms of Grace**

### **Weekly Gatherings**

**Youth Group -** *Fridays, 7:00pm – At the church*

**Prayer Meeting -** *Sundays, 6:00pm – At the church*

### **Monthly or Biweekly Gatherings**

**First Friday Fires -** *1st Friday, 5:45pm – Lee Family Home*

Bring a side dish, and dress appropriately for the weather.

**Second Sunday Discussions -** *2nd Sunday, 15 minutes after worship ends*

Family-style conversations on a rotating topic.

**Women’s Breakfast -** *2nd Saturday, 9:30am – Cosgrove Family Home*

**Men’s Night -** *3rd Friday, 7:00pm – Location varies*

**Praying for Prodigals -** *3rd Sunday, 8:30am – Church building*

**Conversations in Grace -** *1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00pm – At the church*

Summer evening conversations in God’s Word.

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory