

GRACE AND PEACE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Grace and Peace Community Church exists to give people repeated opportunities to hear the gospel of Jesus, so that they may believe, follow, and worship Him.

What is the church?

The church is the people of God. She is the group of sinners who have been saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus, and who now belong to Him, her Husband and Head (1 Peter 2:4-10). Her job is to proclaim the gospel and make followers of Jesus from every nation (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20). She is also called to care for and love her members, as she goes into the world with the gospel, to glory of God.

What is the gospel?

The gospel is the good news of God's saving grace in His Son Jesus Christ. Specifically, it is only because of Jesus Christ's perfect life, substitutionary death, and victorious resurrection that sinners can have their sins forgiven, their relationship with God restored, and their eternal life secured. The gospel is the power of God for salvation for anyone who will believe in it (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Romans 1:16-17).

Why do people need to hear the gospel?

No one can be saved unless they believe in the gospel. But no one can believe unless they *hear* it. And no one can hear it unless someone tells them. We preach, proclaim, speak, and share the gospel, because that is how God converts people to faith and grows them in grace throughout their Christian life.

Why do people need to hear the gospel repeatedly?

Hearing and believing the gospel is the only way for someone to be saved. If someone is *not* saved, we continue to give them opportunities to be saved. If someone *is* saved, we continue to give them opportunities to believe and submit to the grace of the gospel, because that is the only way for people to grow in their faith (Romans 10:14-17).

What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

Believing in Jesus means more than just attending church or doing the things that Christians should do. It means *trusting* in Jesus alone, both who He is and what He has done in the gospel, for the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, and the promise of everlasting life in heaven (Ephesians 2:8-9).

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

To follow Jesus means more than making a one-time *decision* for Jesus. It means a lifetime and lifestyle of denying oneself and following Jesus' leadership in every area of life. It is to acknowledge Jesus as both Savior *and* Lord (Mark 1:17; Luke 9:23).

What does it mean to worship Jesus?

To worship Jesus means that we are not called to live for ourselves, but to live solely for Him whom we were made to serve. It means to glorify Him, and God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit, and enjoy the One Triune God forever (1 Corinthians 10:31).