

Welcome Home Part 2: “Who we are” (1-14-2018)

This series . . . For the month of January we will be reviewing who Grace Chapel is, what we believe, casting vision for 2018, and providing an opportunity for membership in the church.

Review: Part 1 – “What we believe”

Our Starting Point: The church is a FAMILY. God expects you to be a MEMBER of a church family. A Christian without a church family is disconnected. We were made for relationship!

Our Goal for this Series: That you will commit yourself to Christ and a church family. That you will have enough information to make an informed DECISION whether or not Grace Chapel is to be that family.

5 essential doctrines

In essential beliefs we have UNITY. In non-essential beliefs we have LIBERTY. In all our beliefs we show LOVE.

If these 5 essential doctrines are missing from any church’s or organization’s beliefs, that church or organization is not standing in agreement with historic Christianity – the Bible, apostles, and early church fathers.

- 1) **Doctrine of the TRINITY** - God the Father, the Son - Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit
- 2) **Doctrine of the DEITY of Christ**
- 3) **Doctrine of the Vicarious ATONEMENT of Christ**
- 4) **Doctrine of the Physical RESURRECTION of Christ**
- 5) **Doctrine of SALVATION by Grace through Faith**

The Sacraments

- 1) **Communion** – We practice this regularly to Remember, Reveal, and Rejoice!
- 2) **Baptism** – Why? obedience & testimony, not salvation. It is an outward declaration of an inward change!

What we believe about The Bible

The Bible is God’s Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:15

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.”

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is, “What does the Bible say?” We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

Today: Part 2 – “Who we are”

OUR HEART

“Equipping People to be Passionate Disciples of Jesus Christ”

- **Jesus** – He is our living Savior who invites us into a vibrant, life-changing relationship with Him. We are committed to knowing and growing in Him by being rooted in God’s Word, surrendered to and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and walking in a real, honest relationship with Jesus & each other. We live to glorify God in all we say and do.
 - Knowing & Growing – thru God’s Word, the Holy Spirit (strength & surrender), & people
 - This is about Relationship not Religion – real & honest w/ Jesus & His people

- **People** – We welcome people from all walks of life to come and experience the life-changing power, love, and truth of Jesus Christ. We are regular people who enjoy living in our community. We want to love and serve the people of Knoxville. Our heart is to evangelize the lost through friendly, personal relationships and dynamic corporate outreach. When we gather for services, feel free to dress however you are comfortable. You can wear dresses and suits, or shorts and flip-flops. Come as you are!
 - Jesus loves people & we will too, therefore . . . All People are welcome – sinners, skeptics, & saints
 - Be welcoming – no Insiders vs. Outsiders. Avoid clicks – often don’t notice if you are in one!

- **Passionate Worship** – We live to worship the true, living God and His son Jesus Christ with the entirety of our lives. We believe worship of God is a spiritual experience; therefore, we are desperate for the leading of the Holy Spirit to direct our worship. We believe worship of God should be inspiring; therefore, we give great place to uplifting music in our worship.
 - A Way of Life, and its Spiritually-led – different than emotionally-led (can be confusing).
 - Inspiring – in content, in art (we are made artists), in participation (no audience, shared experience)

- **Equipping** – We believe worship of God should be transformative; therefore, our services are designed with great emphasis upon teaching the life altering Word of God. We believe the worship of God is fruitful; therefore, we look for His love in and through our lives as the supreme manifestation of our pure devotion. We believe our structure should be as simple as possible, existing to encourage & support the body of Grace Chapel to follow Jesus, our living Savior, within the context of our community in order to be and make disciples.
 - Jesus wants us to have a life transformed & fruitful – receiving & giving love
 - Teaching – in a life altering way, therefore based on God’s truth
 - Simple – Some organization (Sunday worship / Home groups), mostly just life together encouraging our life in the world – home, community, work, abroad

- **Discipleship** – We are called to disciple the believer with life-transforming, uncompromising biblical truth. We believe a disciple is someone who is following Jesus as the living Savior, being changed by Him, and on mission with Him. We believe discipleship happens where biblical truth and everyday life meet, with Jesus at the center of authentic Godly relationships.

OUR NATURE

“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace . . . Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”
(1 Corinthians 14:33, 40)

- At Grace Chapel, we believe the structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions. Rather, Scripture should determine the nature of the Church in a manner that affects how it is structured.

1) The Church is a FELLOWSHIP.

“They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...” (Acts 2:42)

Romans 14:19

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.”

2) The Church is a FAMILY.

1 Peter 3:8 (LB)

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.”

- We operate on the basis of relationship – not rules or resumes or past responsibilities and experiences you may have had. At Grace Chapel relationship with you in the present is more important than what you’ve done in the past. We want to get to know you!

3) The Church is a BODY.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

“All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”

- We are a body – not a business; we are an organism – not an organization!
- At Grace Chapel, we function on the basis of spiritual gifts – not elected office.

Romans 12:4-6

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.”

4) The Church is a **FLOCK**.

John 10: 11, 14 (NKJV)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own."

1 Peter 5:1-2

"To the elders I say...Be shepherds of God's flock, serving as overseers..."

- Elders, or pastors, or overseers are in the church are for the protection and nurture of the flock.
- At Grace Chapel, we are cared for and led by shepherds.

John 21:16-17

"Jesus asked Simon Peter, 'Do you really love me?' 'Yes Lord,' said Peter. 'Then take care of my sheep.'"

OUR STRUCTURE

Our Affiliation – Grace Chapel in Franklin, TN. They are our sending church, we are in close relationship, but we make decisions as the local church. We do not pay dues; we are not subject to denominational control. They provide support not control.

Ephesians 4:11-12

"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."

- At Grace Chapel . . . We have a simple structure so we can maximize ministry and minimize maintenance.
 - CHURCH STAFF - The day-to-day operation of the church is taken care of by the church staff, and overseen by the pastors.
 - ELDER BOARD - Oversees our ministries and makes the major decisions for the congregation.
 - PASTORS – Equip the members for the work of the ministry and the building up of the body.
 - THE PEOPLE are the "ministers" and the pastors are the "administrators."

Listen – people are the church. We are about people, and therefore we are about relationships.

LIFE GROUPS

- Everyone at Grace Chapel needs to be in a **LIFE GROUP**. They 're the heartbeat of our church.
- Jesus primary method to reach the world was a small group!

Acts 2:46

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

- The early church met in the temple. (Sundays)
- The early church met in homes. (Lifegroups)

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

“Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.”

What is a Life Group?

A Life Group consist of disciples of Jesus who meet together weekly in someone’s home to learn how to follow Jesus, to be changed by Jesus, and to be on mission with Jesus.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Why are Life Groups Important?

- I belong in God’s family with other believers.

“Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10

- I need encouragement to grow spiritually.

“Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24

- I need accountability to grow spiritually.

“People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron.” Proverbs 27:17 (GN)

- I am meant to experience the ‘one another’s of Scripture. (See Additional Notes on One Another Verses)

What happens in a Life Group?

- We remind each other of our identity in Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- We teach one another to obey Jesus’ commands. (Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 3:15-17)
- Train each other to serve in tangible ways. (Ephesians 4:11-3)
- Get to know one another’s stories, listening closely to each other and to the Holy Spirit so we can direct each other to truth. (John 16:7-15)
- Encourage each other daily to live out what we believe. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Additional Notes

The “One Another’s” of Scripture

- Serve One another

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13 (NKJV)

- Accept One Another

“Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.” Romans 15:7 (NLT)

- Forgive One Another

“...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” Colossians 3:13 (ESV)

- Greet One Another

“Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.” Romans 16:16 (NKJV)

- Bear One Another's Burdens

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)

- Be Devoted to One Another

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Romans 12:10 (NIV)

- Honor One Another

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Romans 12:10 (NIV)

- Submit to One Another

“And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

- Encourage One Another

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)