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Grace Community Church of Topsail

January 11, 2026: Jesus' Words on Divorce (Part 1) - Matthew 5:31-32

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

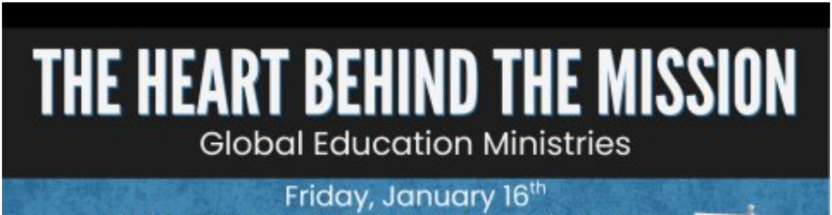
★ CHURCH ★
POTLUCK

TODAY!

Come Celebrate Strand Baby #2!

Sunday, January 18th. Immediately following morning worship.

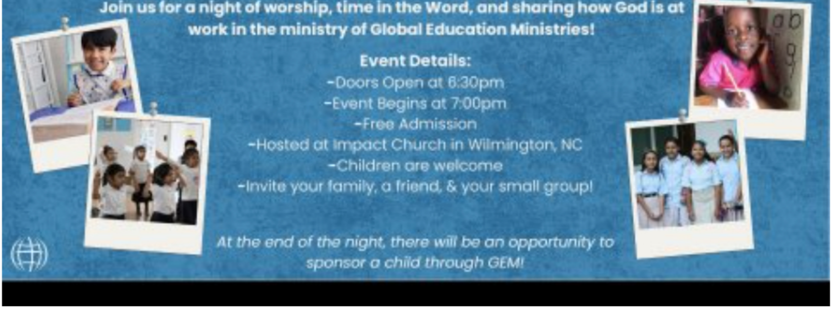
BABY SHOWER
You're invited



THE HEART BEHIND THE MISSION

Global Education Ministries

Friday, January 16th

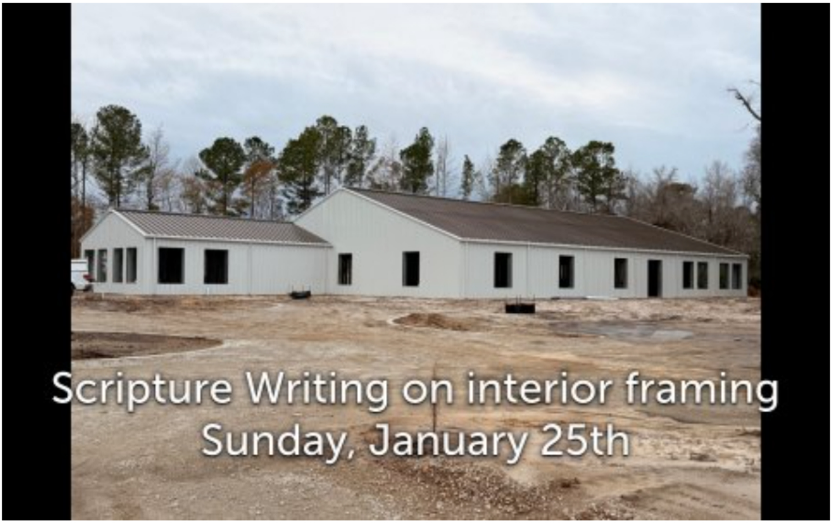


Join us for a night of worship, time in the Word, and sharing how God is at work in the ministry of Global Education Ministries!

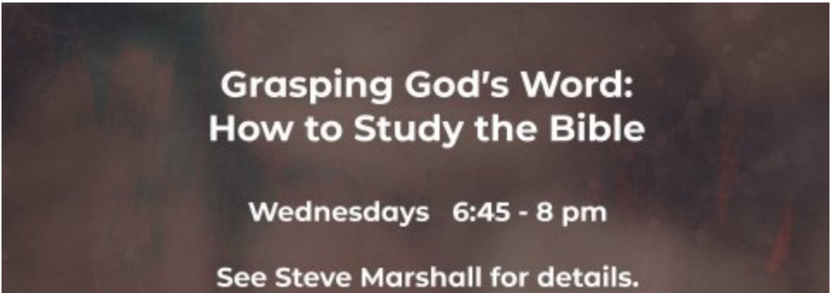
Event Details:

-Doors Open at 6:30pm
-Event Begins at 7:00pm
-Free Admission
-Hosted at Impact Church in Wilmington, NC
-Children are welcome
-Invite your family, a friend, & your small group!

At the end of the night, there will be an opportunity to sponsor a child through GEM!



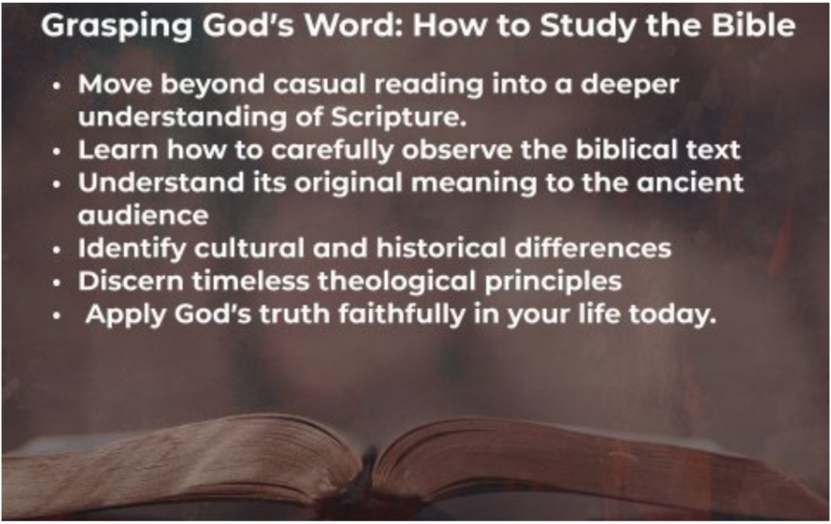
Scripture Writing on interior framing
Sunday, January 25th



Grasping God's Word:
How to Study the Bible

Wednesdays 6:45 - 8 pm

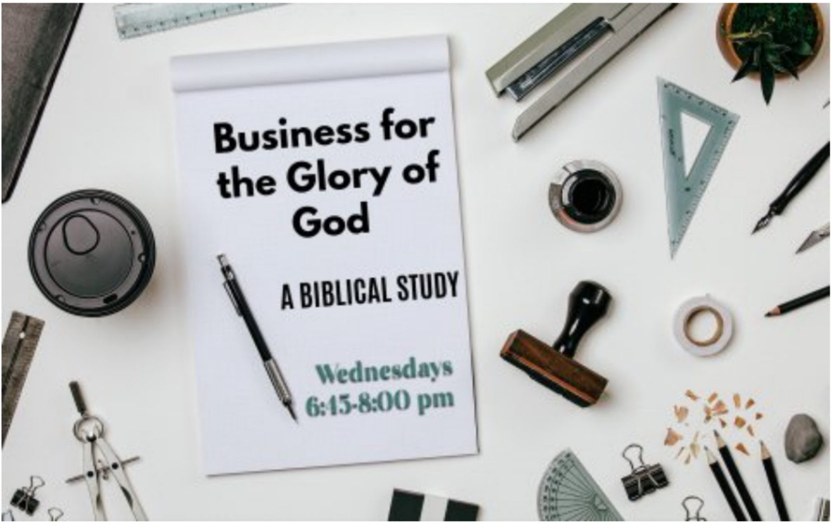
See Steve Marshall for details.



Grasping God's Word: How to Study the Bible

- Move beyond casual reading into a deeper understanding of Scripture.
- Learn how to carefully observe the biblical text
- Understand its original meaning to the ancient audience
- Identify cultural and historical differences
- Discern timeless theological principles
- Apply God's truth faithfully in your life today.

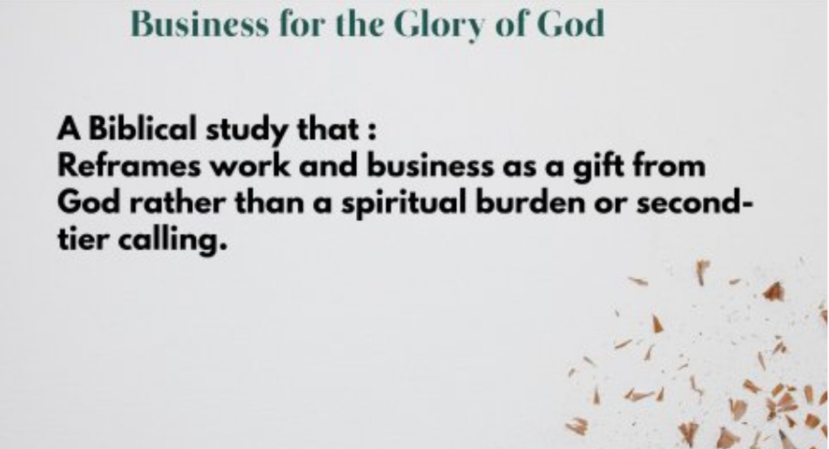
This hands-on approach equips you to handle Scripture with clarity and confidence, so that you can engage God's Word personally, accurately, and meaningfully. Whether you are just starting out or looking to deepen your study skills, this class will help you read and apply the Bible as God intended—so you can live it fully.



Business for the Glory of God

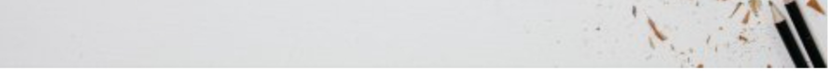
A BIBLICAL STUDY

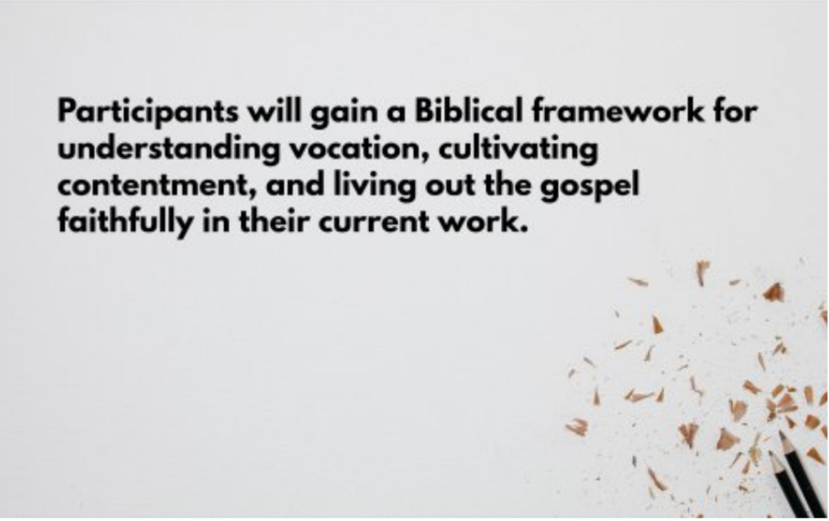
Wednesdays
6:15-8:00 pm



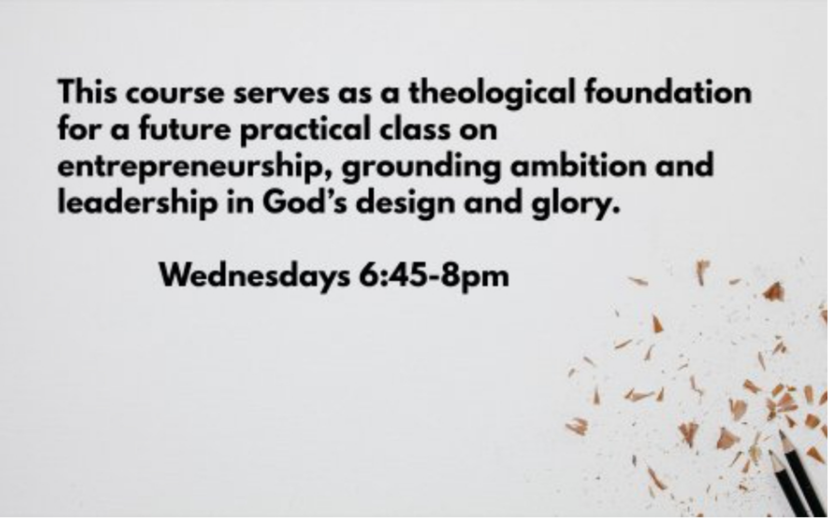
Business for the Glory of God

A Biblical study that :
Reframes work and business as a gift from God rather than a spiritual burden or second-tier calling.



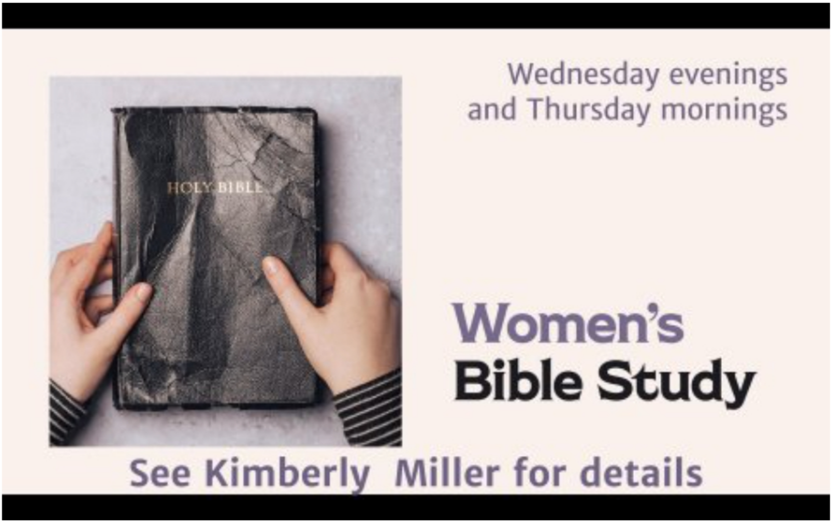


Participants will gain a Biblical framework for understanding vocation, cultivating contentment, and living out the gospel faithfully in their current work.



This course serves as a theological foundation for a future practical class on entrepreneurship, grounding ambition and leadership in God's design and glory.

Wednesdays 6:45-8pm



Wednesday evenings
and Thursday mornings

Women's
Bible Study

See Kimberly Miller for details

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

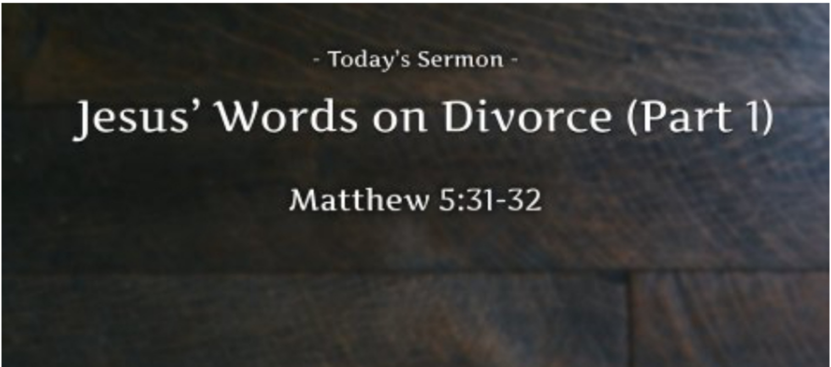
Psalm 145:18 ESV

> The LORD is near to all who call on him,
> to all who call on him in truth.

Continue reading »

- ♫ **Behold Our God**
- ♫ **Before The Throne Of God Above**
- ♫ **Way Maker**

Kingdom
Culture
HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH
SERMON ON THE
MOUNT SERIES


- Today's Sermon -

Jesus' Words on Divorce (Part 1)

Matthew 5:31-32

Two Main Views

Essentially, there are two main views on divorce and remarriage, though each has its own variations based on this question:

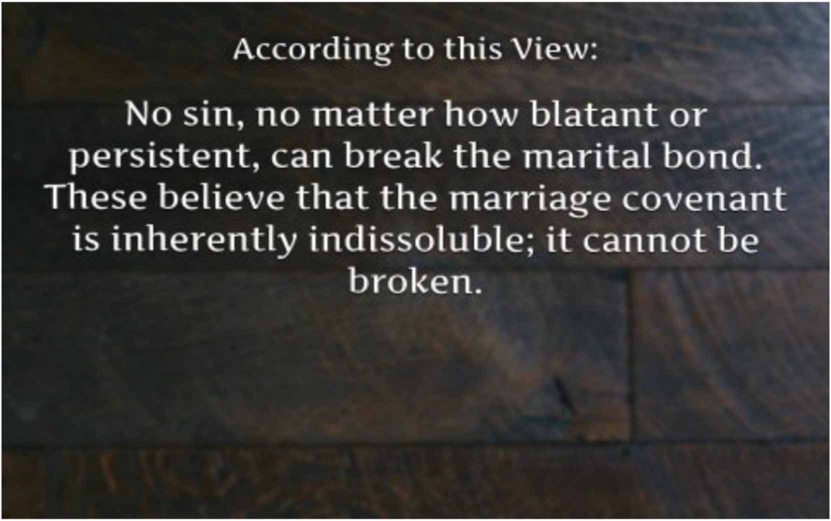
Two Main Views on Divorce and Remarriage:

Is the marital bond, the marriage covenant, inherently and irrevocably (permanently) unbreakable,

Is the marital bond, the marriage covenant, inherently and irrevocably (permanently) unbreakable,
Or is it ideally (by God's holy standard) unbreakable?

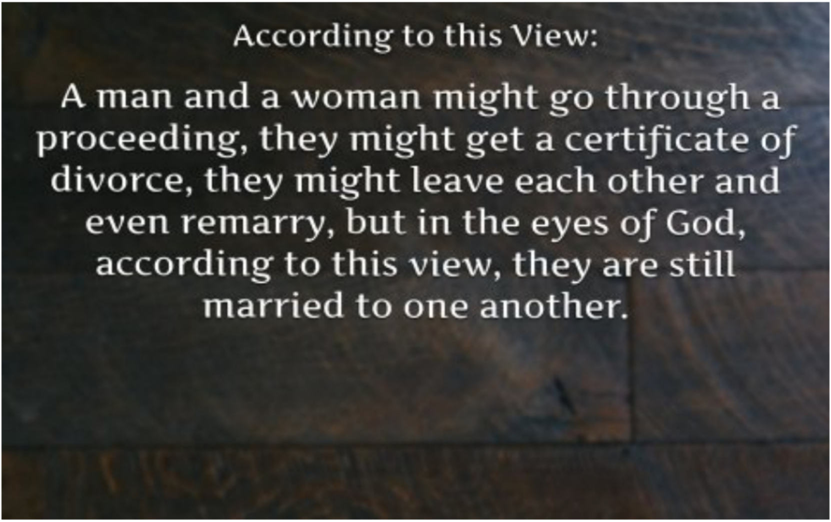
First View

Some in the evangelical world argue that divorce is never permissible under any circumstances.



According to this View:

No sin, no matter how blatant or persistent, can break the marital bond. These believe that the marriage covenant is inherently indissoluble; it cannot be broken.



According to this View:

A man and a woman might go through a proceeding, they might get a certificate of divorce, they might leave each other and even remarry, but in the eyes of God, according to this view, they are still married to one another.

Second View

Divorce is sometimes permissible.

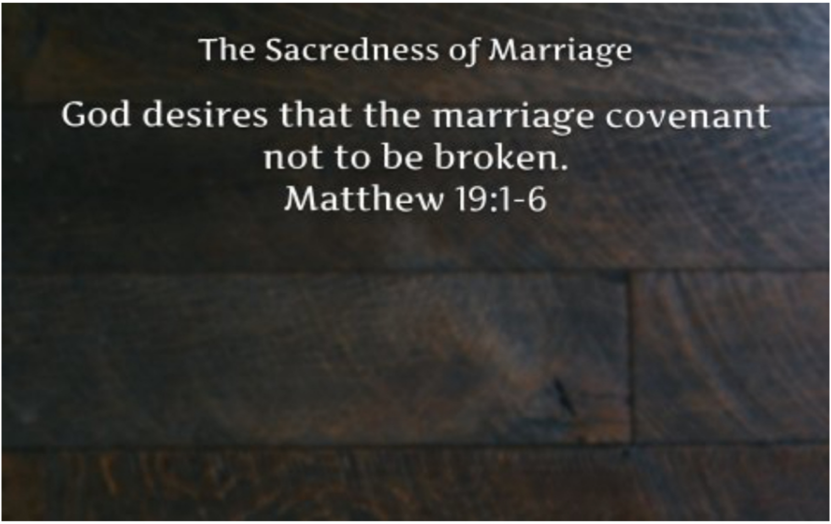
Two Positions under this Second View:

- Whereas divorce may be permissible, remarriage is not.

Two Positions under this Second View:

- Whereas divorce may be permissible, remarriage is not.
- If divorce is ever permissible, so too is remarriage.

1) The Sacredness of Marriage



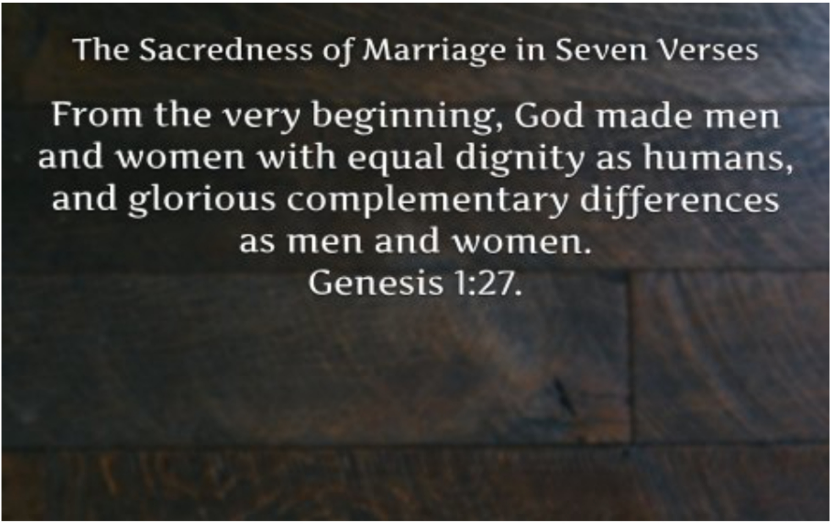
The Sacredness of Marriage

God desires that the marriage covenant
not to be broken.
Matthew 19:1-6

Matthew 19:1–6 ESV

Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.
And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful...

Continue reading »



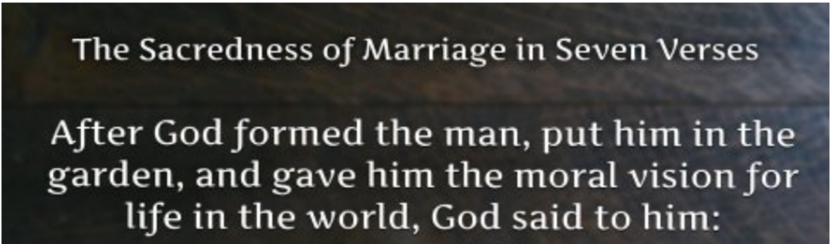
The Sacredness of Marriage in Seven Verses

From the very beginning, God made men and women with equal dignity as humans, and glorious complementary differences as men and women.
Genesis 1:27.

Genesis 1:27 ESV

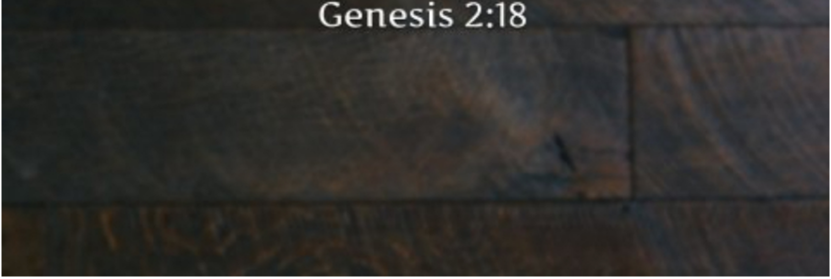
So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Continue reading »



The Sacredness of Marriage in Seven Verses

After God formed the man, put him in the garden, and gave him the moral vision for life in the world, God said to him:

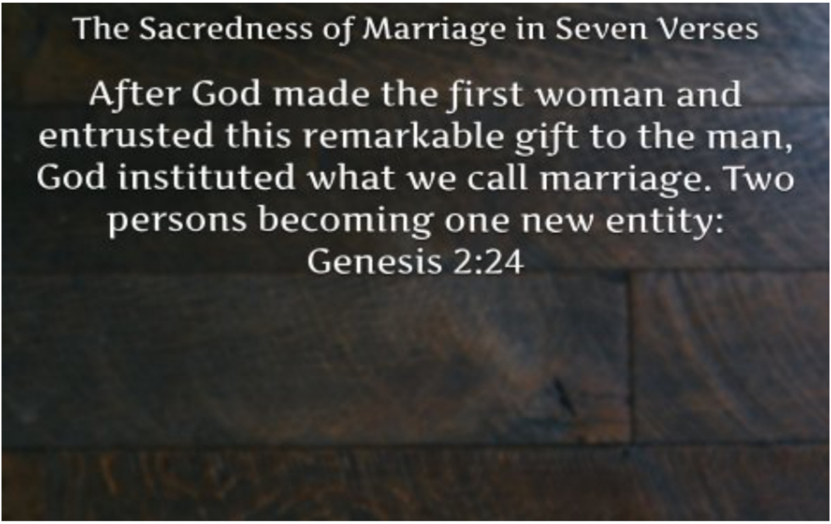


Genesis 2:18

Genesis 2:18 ESV

> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Continue reading »



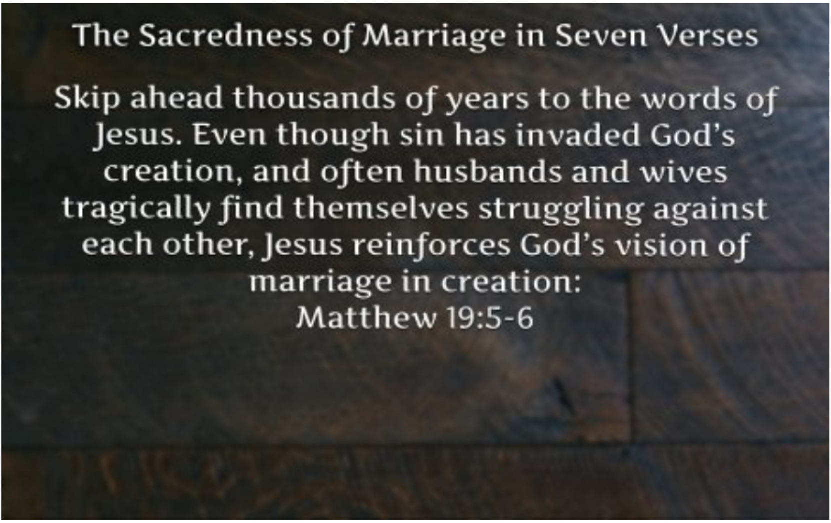
The Sacredness of Marriage in Seven Verses

After God made the first woman and entrusted this remarkable gift to the man, God instituted what we call marriage. Two persons becoming one new entity: Genesis 2:24

Genesis 2:24 ESV

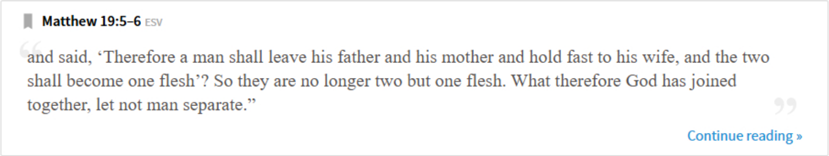
> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Continue reading »



The Sacredness of Marriage in Seven Verses

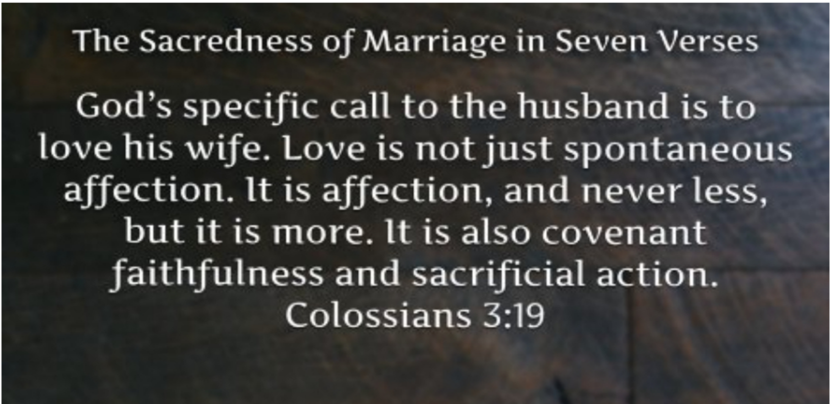
Skip ahead thousands of years to the words of Jesus. Even though sin has invaded God's creation, and often husbands and wives tragically find themselves struggling against each other, Jesus reinforces God's vision of marriage in creation:
Matthew 19:5-6



Matthew 19:5–6 ESV

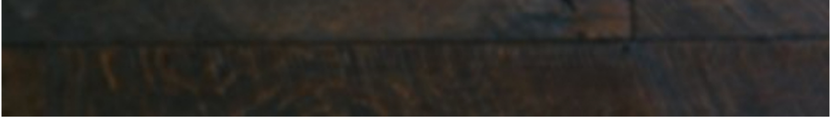
> and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Continue reading »



The Sacredness of Marriage in Seven Verses

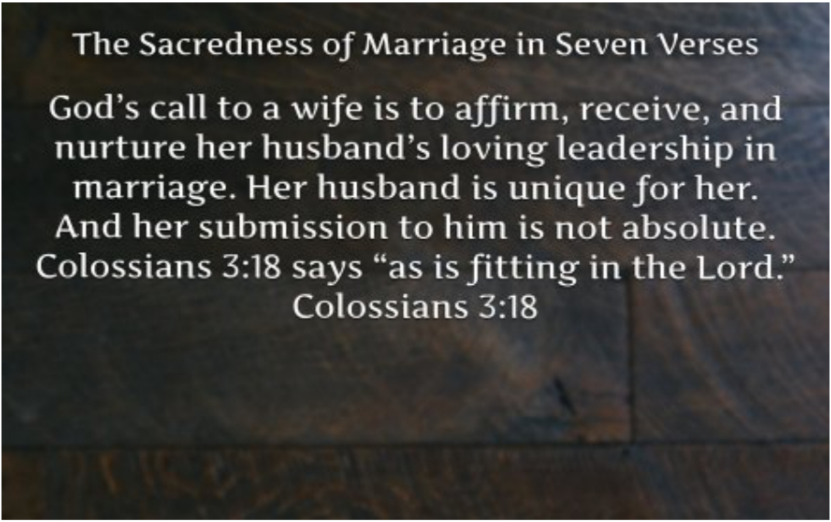
God's specific call to the husband is to love his wife. Love is not just spontaneous affection. It is affection, and never less, but it is more. It is also covenant faithfulness and sacrificial action.
Colossians 3:19



Colossians 3:19 ESV

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

Continue reading »



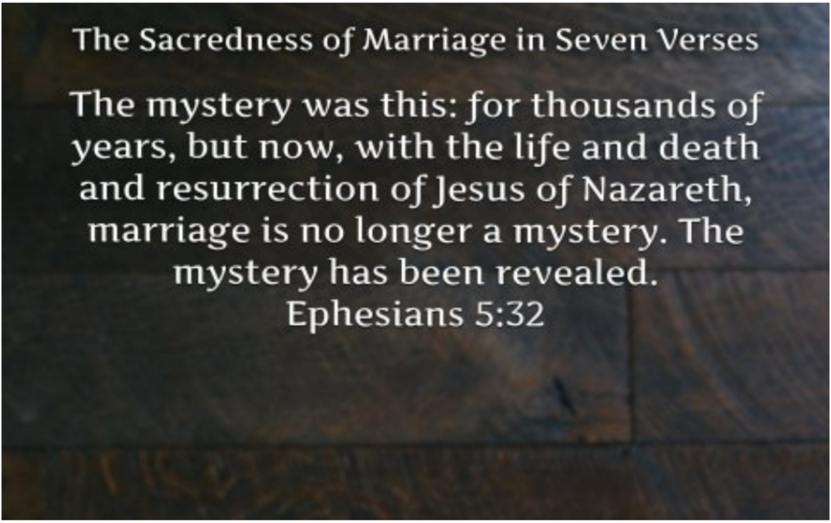
The Sacredness of Marriage in Seven Verses

God’s call to a wife is to affirm, receive, and nurture her husband’s loving leadership in marriage. Her husband is unique for her. And her submission to him is not absolute. Colossians 3:18 says “as is fitting in the Lord.”
Colossians 3:18

Colossians 3:18 ESV

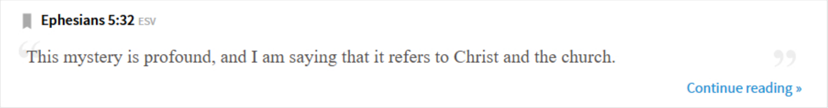
Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Continue reading »



The Sacredness of Marriage in Seven Verses

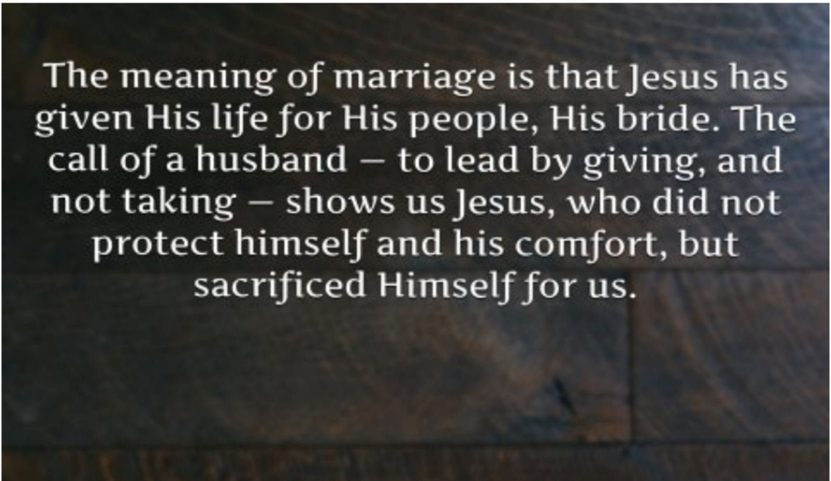
The mystery was this: for thousands of years, but now, with the life and death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, marriage is no longer a mystery. The mystery has been revealed.
Ephesians 5:32



Ephesians 5:32 ESV

"This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."

Continue reading »

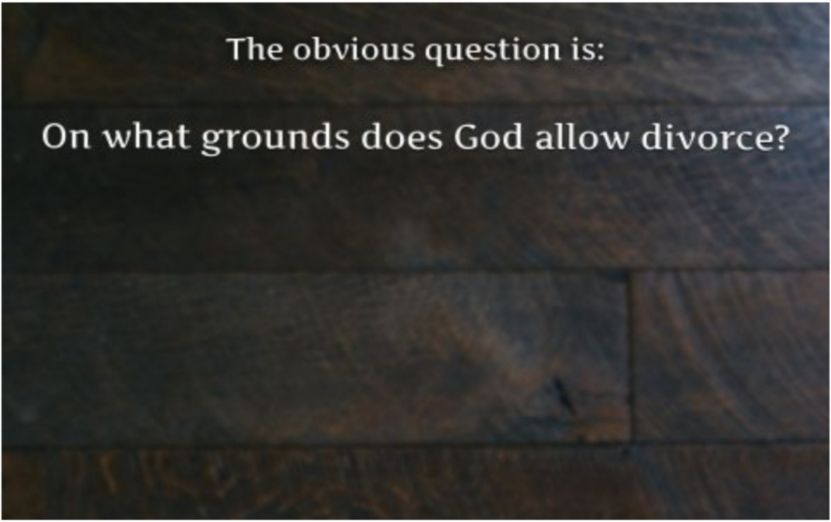


The meaning of marriage is that Jesus has given His life for His people, His bride. The call of a husband – to lead by giving, and not taking – shows us Jesus, who did not protect himself and his comfort, but sacrificed Himself for us.

Jesus is the Husband who does not claim special privilege, but shoulders more responsibility to love His bride with affection, allegiance, and action.

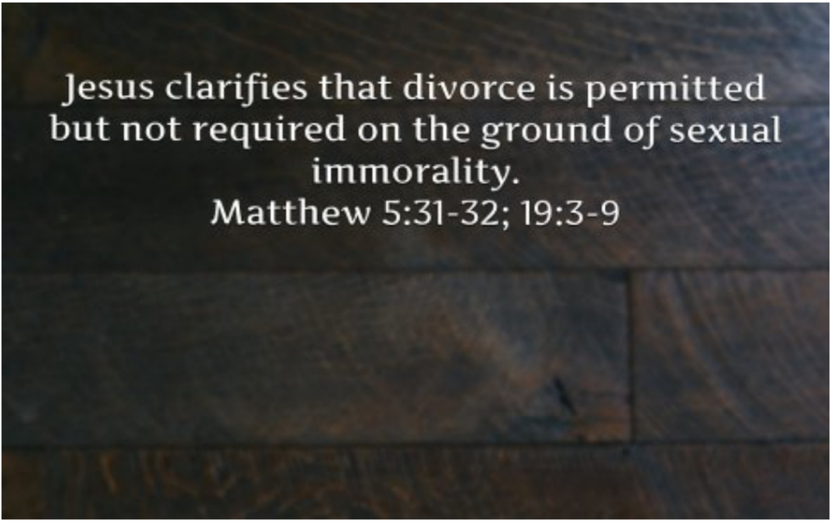
Jesus's love for his church is the ultimate meaning of marriage.

2) Grounds For Divorce



The obvious question is:

On what grounds does God allow divorce?



Jesus clarifies that divorce is permitted but not required on the ground of sexual immorality.

Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9

Matthew 5:31–32 ESV

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced...

Continue reading »

Matthew 19:3–9 ESV

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave...

Continue reading »

Deuteronomy 24:1 ESV

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his...

Continue reading »

Deuteronomy 23:12–14 ESV

> “You shall have a place outside the camp, and you shall go out to it. And you shall have a trowel with your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole with it and turn back and cover up your excrement. Because the LORD your God walks...

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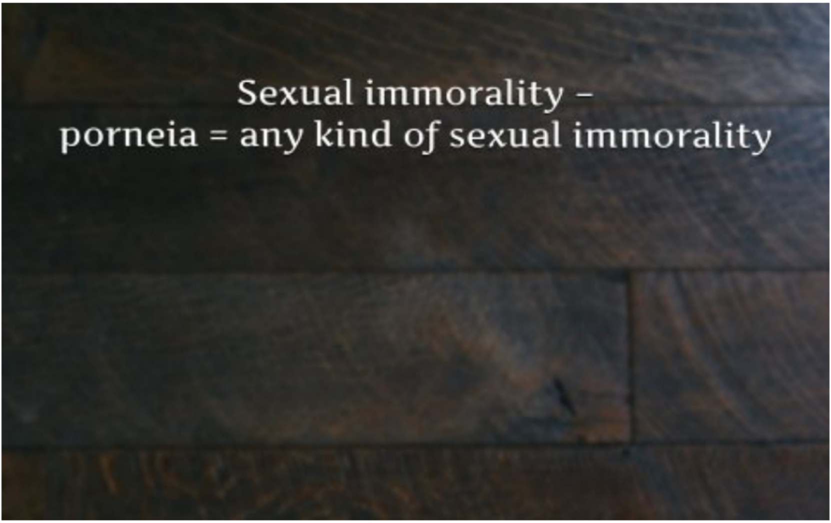
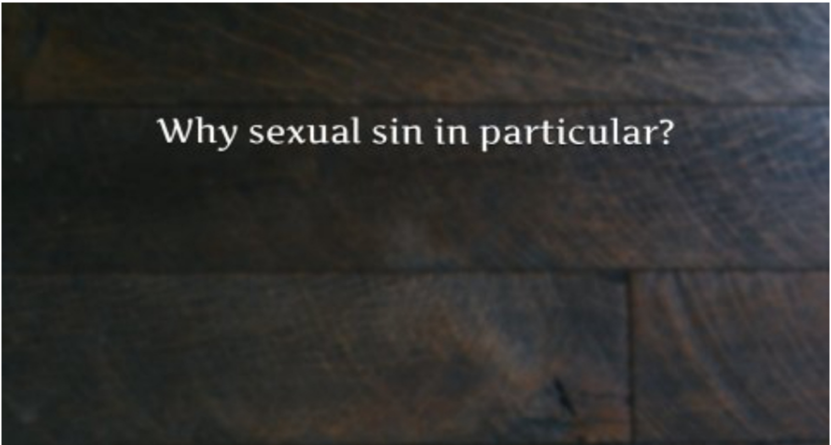


Sexual immorality –
porneia = any kind of sexual immorality



Why sexual sin in particular?

Why sexual sin in particular?

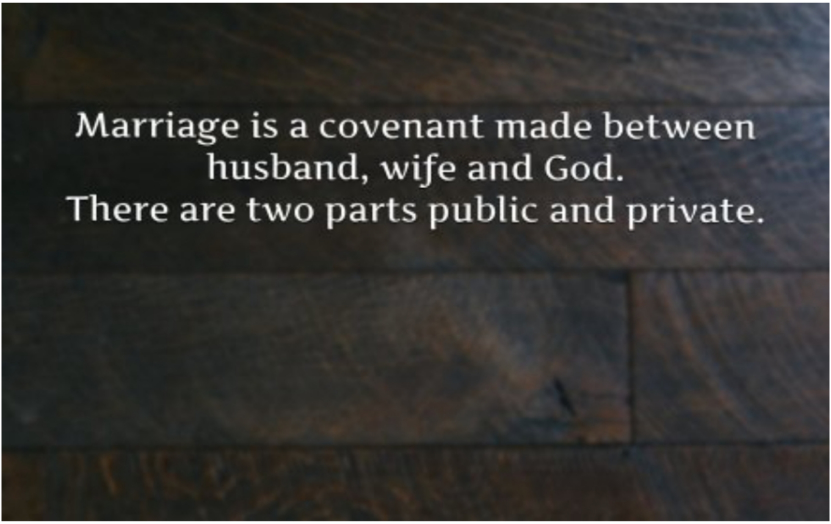
Sexual sin is grounds for divorce because the act of sexual intimacy is the oath signing, the ratification, of the covenant of marriage.

The book of Malachi informs us that marriage is a type of covenant, an agreement between two parties.
Malachi 2:14-16

Malachi 2:14–16 ESV

> But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in...

Continue reading »



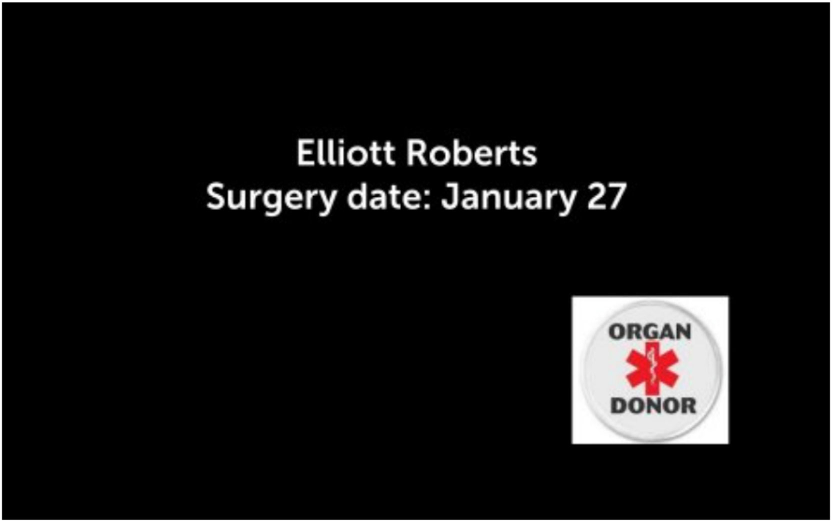
Marriage is a covenant made between husband, wife and God.
There are two parts public and private.

Kingdom Culture

HOW HEAVEN TOUCHES EARTH

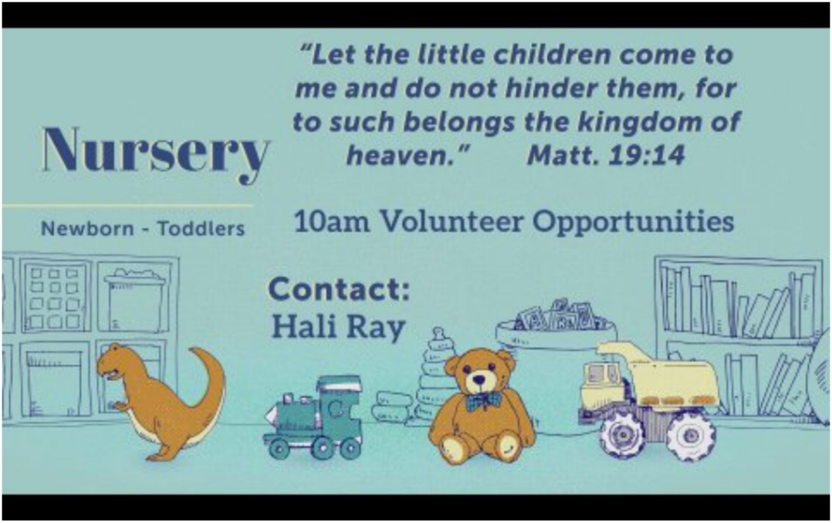
SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES

♫ **Christ Be Magnified**



Elliott Roberts
Surgery date: January 27

ORGAN
DONOR



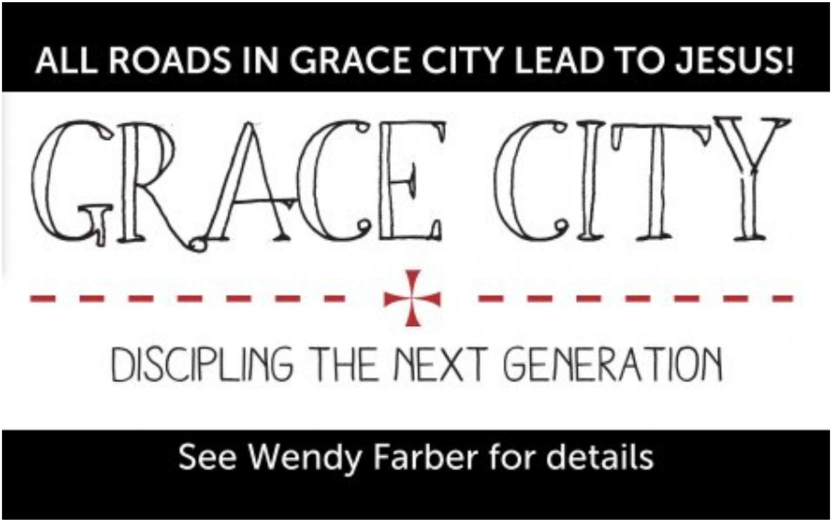
Nursery

Newborn - Toddlers

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." *Matt. 19:14*

10am Volunteer Opportunities

Contact:
Hali Ray

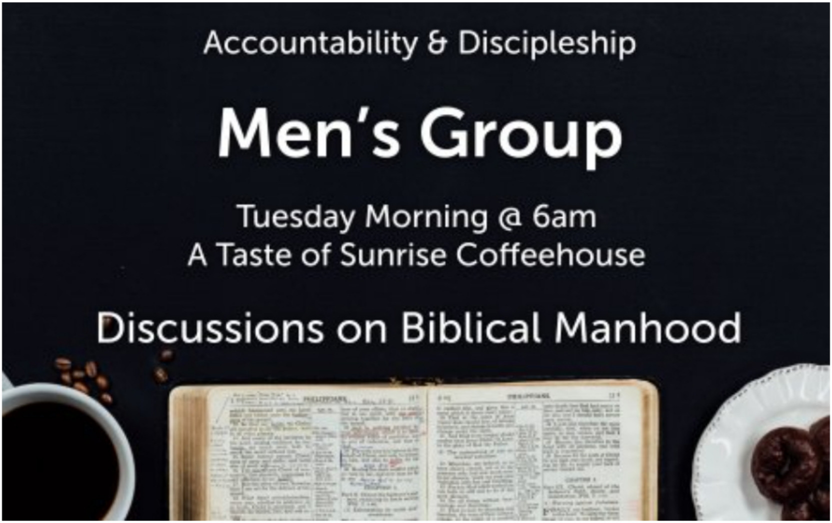


ALL ROADS IN GRACE CITY LEAD TO JESUS!

GRACE CITY

DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION

See Wendy Farber for details



Accountability & Discipleship

Men's Group

Tuesday Morning @ 6am
A Taste of Sunrise Coffeehouse

Discussions on Biblical Manhood

Yellow Pages

GCT Business Directory

Looking for a handyman?

Need your house power washed?

Need a babysitter?

Need an Uber?

Send your business info to Stacy Leicht to be added to a list of services provided by GCT members

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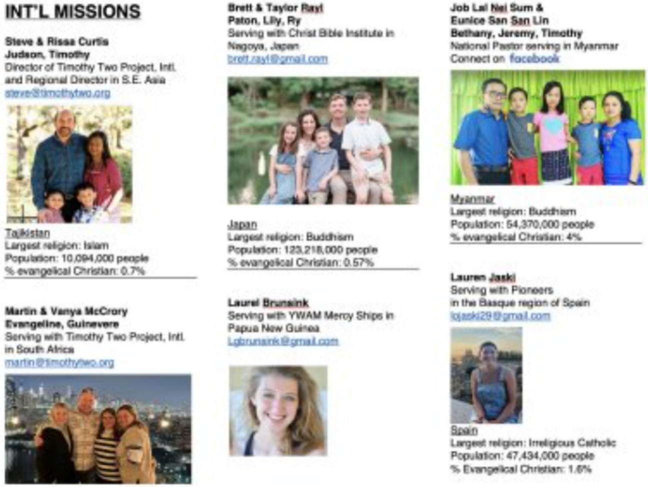


INT'L MISSIONS

Steve & Risaa Curtis
Judson, Timothy
Director of Timothy Two Project, Intl.
and Regional Director in S.E. Asia
steve@timothytwo.org

Tajikistan
Largest religion: Islam
Population: 10,094,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.7%

Martin & Vanya McCrory
Evangeline, Guinevere
Serving with Timothy Two Project, Intl.
in South Africa
martin@timothytwo.org

Brett & Taylor Rayl
Paton, Lily, Ry
Serving with Christ Bible Institute in
Nagoya, Japan
brett.rayl@gmail.com

Japan
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 123,218,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 0.57%

Laurel Brunsink
Serving with YWAM Mercy Ships in
Papua New Guinea
Lgbrunsink@gmail.com

Job Lai Nei Sum &
Eunice San San Lin
Bethany, Jeremy, Timothy
National Pastor serving in Myanmar
Connect on facebook

Myanmar
Largest religion: Buddhism
Population: 54,370,000 people
% evangelical Christian: 4%

Lauren Jaski
Serving with Pioneers
in the Basque region of Spain
lojaski29@gmail.com

Spain
Largest religion: Irreligious Catholic
Population: 47,434,000 people
% Evangelical Christian: 1.6%

Missionaries that GCT Supports

LOCAL MISSIONS

Ratio Christi UNCW
John & Kim Zino
johnfzino@gmail.com

Ratio Christi (Latin for "The Reason of Christ") is a global movement that equips university students and faculty to give historical, philosophical, and scientific reasons for following Jesus Christ.

GCT Baby Pantry
Mary Copeland
GCTBabyPantry@gmail.com

Lifeline Pregnancy Center
Sandra Holdstein
info@lifelinewilmington.org

Center For Christian Thought
Bill & Jenny Morrison
bill@cfctwilmington.org

KidzAtHeart
Becca Hess
bhess@kidzatheart.org

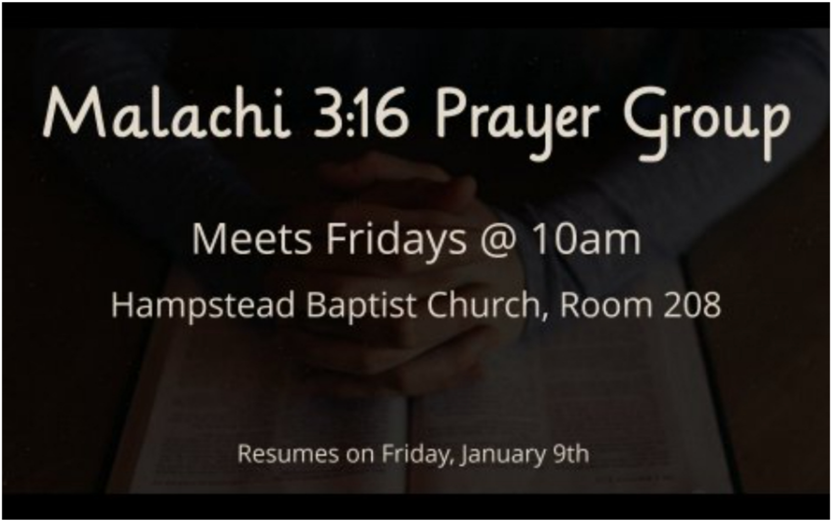
"Equipping indigenous churches across the world to evangelize and disciple children."

Arbor Landing Tuesday Bible Study
Denise Graddon, Gina Brohaugh,
Cheri Standish, Lynn Norwood,
Cynthia Manion
dgraddon@gmail.com

Journey to Heal Ministries
Emily Parker
emily@journeytohealministries.org

Prayer Before Sunday Morning Worship, meets at 9AM in Media classroom. Open to all!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Malachi 3:16 Prayer Group

Meets Fridays @ 10am

Hampstead Baptist Church, Room 208

Resumes on Friday, January 9th

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF TOPSAIL

LET'S GET TO KNOW YOU!
Fill out a Connect Card and place in the donation box.

Grace Community Church of Topsail

98 members • 24 followers