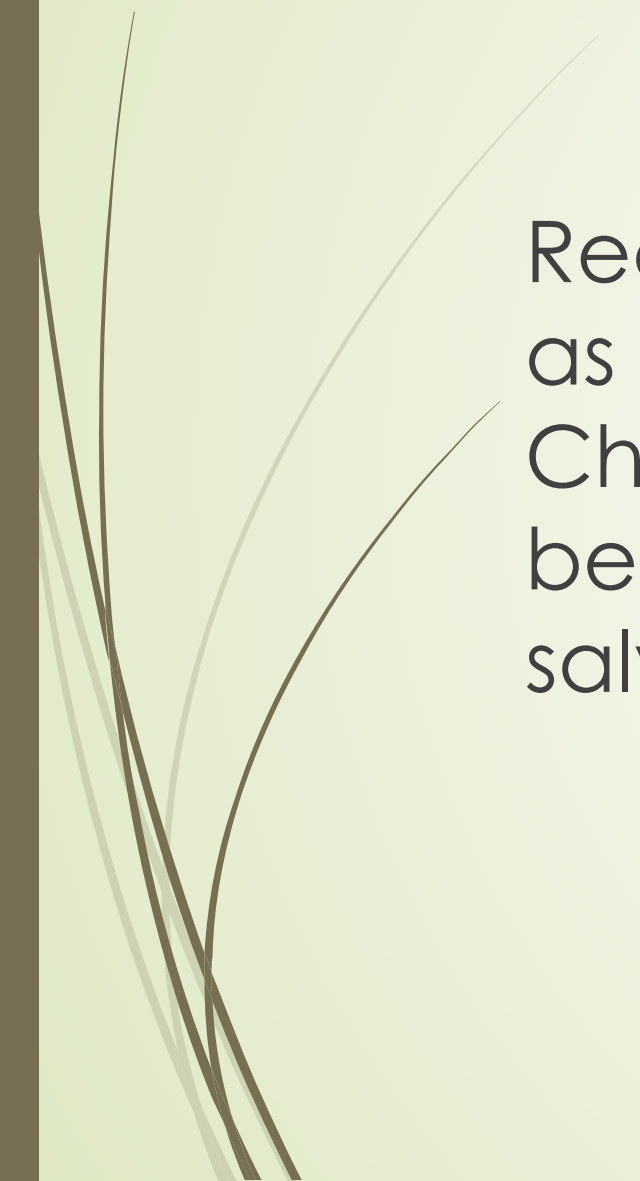




**Because of Grace,
We are Growing in Grace**



Distinctive #1



Recognizing that each of us came to Christ as wounded and wounding sinners, Mosaic Church will seek to live humbly as saints because of the grace of God and the gift of salvation.

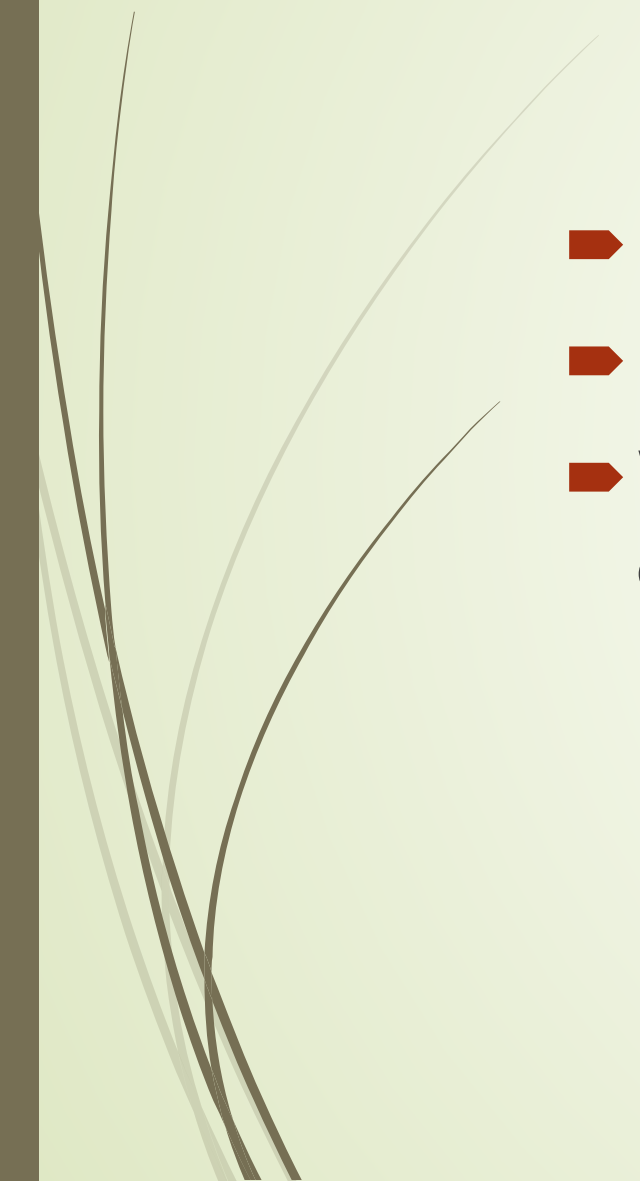


From “Beliefs” on Mosaic website

Human Beings: People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God’s creation. All people were born marred by a state of disobedience toward God called “sin.” This state and its resulting behaviors separate people from God. That separation will be eternal in a place called Hell unless all people are born-again by the spirit of God.



Goods news starts with the bad news

- Psalms 5:4-5
 - Romans 2:5, 8
 - We can take joy and celebrate the good news of the Gospel until we have taken stock of the horrible, awful, very bad news of our reality before coming to Christ.
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But God...

- Romans 5:8
 - Colossians 1:22
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What happens in that moment that our dead rotten stinking flesh becomes alive by the work of the Spirit?

- 1. Our sins – past, present and future - are nailed to the cross and we receive his perfect record Col. 2:13-14
- 2. We are made into a new creature that is given a new regenerated heart (I Cor. 5:17; Ez: 36:26)
- 3. We are provided a purpose in God's kingdom and a future in heaven (I Pet. 4:10)
- 4. We become compelled by Christ's love (I Cor. 5:14; Luther's description of Romans)
- 5. Our essential identity is changed from sinner to saint – set apart ones (I Cor. 1:2 ESV)
- **And yet we wrestle with the reality of the already and the not yet**



We “will seek to live humbly as saints” – Humility – freedom from pride or arrogance

- A really humble man “will not be thinking about humility. In fact, he won’t be thinking about himself at all.” C.S. Lewis
- “Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking about yourself less.”
“It’s not about you.” Rick Warren
- “Don’t think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment” Rom. 12:3
- “In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Phil. 2:4



Some thoughts on humility

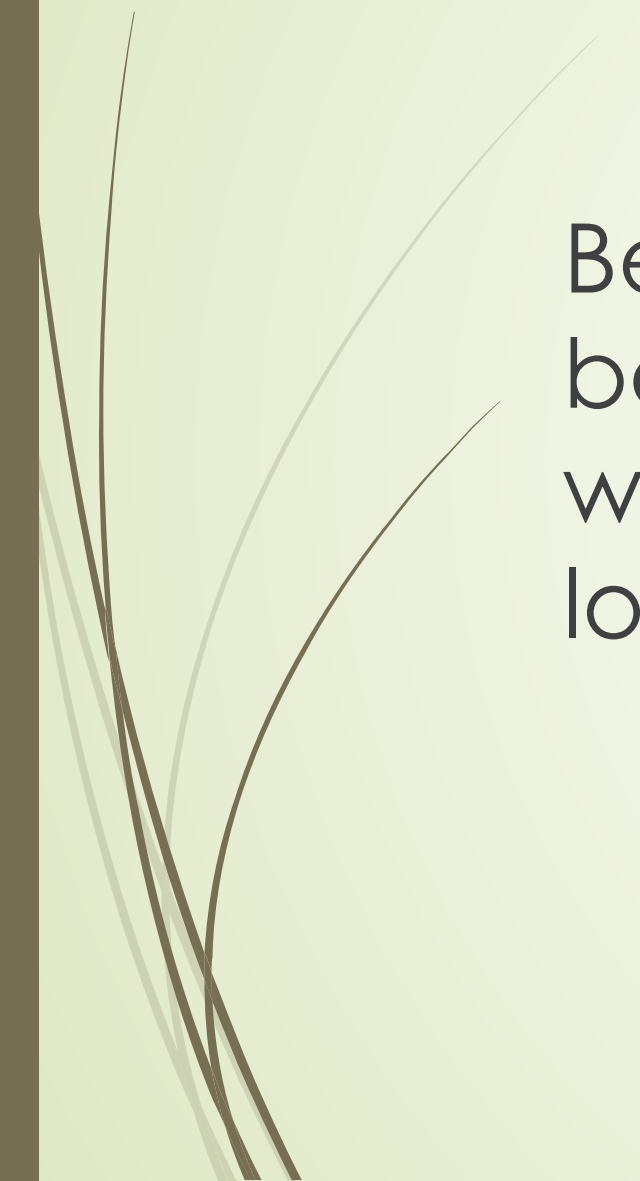
Pride and arrogance flow from a poor understanding of ourselves before both a holy and merciful God. Consequently, deep and abiding humility starts with knowing the truth of who we were, **and** who we now are in Christ – I know where I was and the awful cost it required to pay for my sin and make me His kid. I recognize my place in God's kingdom, not my kingdom. So I'm settled with who and whose I am even as I recognize that I'm both a desperate beggar at the foot of the cross in need of grace today and tomorrow and the next day, **and** I'm a dearly loved adopted brother of Jesus.

➤ Luke 18:9-14



Distinctive #2

Believing that God deals with us on the basis of grace, we will be a community which is growing in grace as we relate lovingly to one another.



Two Forms of Grace

► Unmerited favor



► **Romans 3:24:** “[We] are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Grace is what inclines God to give gifts that are free and undeserved by sinners.

► **Romans 5:15:** “If many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.” So, grace is that quality in God that produces free gifts for guilty sinners in salvation.

► **Romans 11:5–6:** “At the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.” So, you can’t work to earn grace. It is free and undeserved.

Grace as Power for Living

- **Grace as a power for living** – not only an inclination by God to grant unmerited favor, but a force/power or an acting of God that works in us to change our capacities for work and suffering and obedience. J Piper
- **2 Corinthians 9:8:** “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you will need, you will abound in every good work.” -- Grace as a power or an influence for obedience.
- **2 Corinthians 12:9:** Jesus says to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

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- “Now, that does not mean you have to give up that simple definition of undeserved favor. That’s true. That’s a good definition. It just means that the word also embraces the encouraging truth that this favor overflows in powerful, practical helpfulness and power from God in your daily life where you most need it. That help is also called grace because it’s free and it’s undeserved.” J. Piper



Small Group Questions

1. What does it mean for us/me to live humbly as a saint(s)?
 2. How do we/I grow in grace?
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