GRACE groups

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

Post Grad Group Agenda

Lesson 7 – Week of November 9th

1. Mingling and catching up. (10 minutes) __:00 - __:10
2. Begin with a short prayer for your time together. (5 minutes) __:10 - __:15
3. Move to a time of accountability. (20 minutes) __:15 - __:35

   i. **Accountability Questions on your Repentance & Mortification of Sin**
   - ☐ What sin have you confessed and turned from this week?
   - ☐ Did you flee from temptation or linger near it?
   - ☐ How have you been relying on Christ's finished work for forgiveness?
   - ☐ How quickly did you repent when convicted by the Spirit?

   ii. **Homework**
   - ☐ Did you accomplish at least five devotionals this week?
   - ☐ Did you read *Union with Christ*, Ch. 2, "Augustine and His Reformed Reception"?
   - ☐ Did you complete the Bible Study on Galatians 2:20?

4. Lesson Time. (40-55 minutes) __:35 - __:15 __:35 - __:30

From the Bible study on Galatians 2:20

i. Question 3: From Galatians 2:15–21. How does 'Christ who lives in me' relate to Paul's argument about justification by faith?
Suggested answer: Justification is not detached from Christ's person. Paul's old law-defined identity has died with Christ, and his new life and right standing are found in union with Christ and received by faith.

ii. Question 5: Paul says he still lives "in the flesh" — an ordinary, embodied life — even while Christ lives in him. What would it look like this week to let "faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" actually animate one ordinary task or relationship, rather than treating "spiritual" faith and "ordinary" life as separate compartments?

iii. Question 6: If you genuinely believed, as Paul did, that your old self has already been crucified and Christ now lives in you, what specific fear, habit, or self-image would you find easiest — or hardest — to let go of?

From *Union with Christ*

iv. Question 1: Why does Augustine insist that Christ's human nature was joined to God "gratuitously," and why does this matter for Augustine's argument against Pelagius about grace?
Suggested answer: Augustine stresses that Christ's human nature was united to the eternal Son by sheer grace, not by prior human merit. This becomes his decisive anti-Pelagian example of grace preceding and creating human holiness.

v. Question 2: Billings draws out the theological logic: if Christ's humanity is constituted by God's gratuitous grace, what does this imply about the "new humanity" that believers come to share in union with Christ?
Suggested answer: The renewed humanity shared in Christ is wholly gift. Believers participate in a humanity constituted by grace rather than constructing a new identity through autonomous effort.

vi. Question 3: Augustine's point is that even Christ's exalted human status was pure, unmerited gift. If the one perfect human being received his standing with God purely as gift rather than achievement, what does that free you from having to prove about your own standing this week?

vii. Question 4: Where might remembering that your "new humanity" in Christ is entirely gift — not something you build or achieve — change how you approach a specific temptation to perform or measure up this week (at work, in ministry, in a relationship)?

5. Prayer time (15 minutes) __:15 - __:30 __:30 - __:45

i. Ask for specific prayer requests from members.
ii. Pray for one another as you wish.
iii. Write down these prayer requests so you can follow up in the next meeting.

HOMEWORK

Week of November 16th

- ☐ Complete Philippians 2:12-13 Bible study.
- ☐ Read *Billings* Ch. 2, "Communion with God, the Bondage of the Will..."
- ☐ Decide who will be facilitating next week. The agenda can be **found online**.

** Make sure you fill out the "Weekly Feedback Form" and the "Post Grad Group Facilitator Evaluation" at http://gracehamptons.org/postgrad