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 8 – Week of November 16th

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 Stewardship of Time and Resources**
   - ☐ How have you used your time and money for God's glory this week?
   - ☐ Did you waste time on distractions or worldly pursuits?
   - ☐ How were you generous with your resources toward others?
   - ☐ Are you managing your household resources faithfully?
   - ☐ Have you trusted God with your finances rather than worrying?

   ii. **Homework**
   - ☐ Did you accomplish at least five devotionals this week?
   - ☐ Did you read *Union with Christ*, Ch. 2, "Communion with God, the Bondage of the Will..."?
   - ☐ Did you complete the Bible Study on Philippians 2:12-13?

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

**From the Bible study on Philippians 2:12-13**

i. Question 3: How does God working in believers 'to will and to work' preserve both dependence on grace and meaningful human action?
**Suggested answer:** God's action does not replace human action; it enables it. Even the believer's willing and working are real responses made possible by God's prior work.

ii. Question 4: If God is already at work in believers, why does Paul still command them to 'work out' their salvation?
**Suggested answer:** Because God's work activates rather than eliminates responsible obedience. The command describes how God's saving work bears fruit in believers.

iii. Question 5: Where in your life right now do you find yourself leaning too far toward either extreme — anxious self-effort (as if it's all up to you) or passive waiting (as if nothing is required of you)?

**From *Union with Christ***

iv. Question 1: According to Billings, is the Christian life's "mortification of the flesh" (putting the old self to death) best understood as a rupture of identity or a restoration of identity? Explain using Calvin's own language?
**Suggested answer:** Mortification is restoration, not the destruction of true human identity. The false, sinful self is put to death so that humanity may be restored to its created purpose in communion with God.

v. Question 2: Billings poses a sharp question: does denying humans an "autonomous space" for action in salvation make Christians passive and inert? How does he answer this, using the image of activation?
**Suggested answer:** Billings answers that grace activates rather than suppresses agency. God's work enables the believer genuinely to will, act, and assent while all saving credit belongs to God.

vi. Question 3: Calvin says our response to faith is truly ours, while all its fruit is credited to God. Do you tend to take credit for growth or minimize the importance of your choices? What would a healthier balance look like?

vii. Question 4: If mortification of the old self is restoration (becoming more truly yourself) rather than rupture (losing yourself) what specific old, false "self" might God be inviting you to keep putting to death this season, and what would dying to it actually free you to become?

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.

**NO GRACEGROUP THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23RD. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

## HOMEWORK

### Week of November 30th

- ☐ Complete Acts 2:22-24 Bible study.
- ☐ Read *Billings* Ch. 2, "Why Is This Position So Surprising Today?" & "Developments...From Luther to the Reformed Scholastics."
- ☐ 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