## Welcome

We're glad you've joined us this morning! Feel free to check things out and determine whether we might be a good match for you. We're here to help at your invitation — you set the pace.

If you'd like to explore other options after the service, or if you have questions, please pick up the *Guide to Grace Church* at any exit or speak with a member of our Welcome Team in the hall.

When you're ready for the next step, we'd encourage you to check out a Bible Fellowship (Sunday mornings) or join a Community Group (Sunday nights). Both are great ways to connect with others as you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

# **Notes**


## **Information**



Men, come build friendships and learn from guest speaker John Lynch during this weekend at Quartz Mountain Lodge in Oklahoma. \$175 covers your room and meals. Get details and sign up online or in the Main Hall today.



You are invited to join us upstairs in the Loft on Good Friday for an evening of singalong musical worship through traditional hymns and gospel favorites in remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection



This three-week Wednesday evening class for women will help you understand others by associating them with easy-to-remember animals. March 23–April 6 at 6:30 PM, sign up online or in the Main Hall this morning!



This summer camp for teenagers in Glorieta, NM is built on the idea of being set apart for Jesus. Activities include hiking, watersports, skits, Bible study, and worship. \$150 non-refundable deposit due at registration by March 30.

# Grace Church

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#### Tom Rodgers Lead Pastor

### Reggie Coe Family Pastor

Blake Boyd Worship Leader

## Brandon Carpenter

Senior Adults and Christian Education Pastor

### George Castro Junior High Pastor

Bill Daniel Church Executive

## **Alli Fernberg** Women's Ministry

Director

Josh Fernberg Children's Pastor

## Caleb Levell

5th & 6th Grade Ministry Coordinator

## Curtis Lindsey

College and Young Adults Pastor

## Geoff Meador

Communications Director

### Nolen Smith Senior High Pastor



March 13, 2016



This morning we're continuing our study of the book of 1 John. In this series, we'll learn how to fellowship with the Father and enjoy His free gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. We're glad you've joined us!

# **Updates and Family Matters**

### **Easter Sunday**

We will gather together for worship on Easter Sunday morning at our usual times of 9:00 and 10:30 AM. Due to the larger crowds and the additional time needed for traffic flow, each service will be one hour long.

There will be no Adult Bible Fellowships or Student Bible Fellowships on Easter Sunday, but children's ministry programs will be available for kids through the 4th grade.

#### **Prayer Team**

Our Prayer Team members pray one specific day each month for our nation, our missions, our church, and individual matters. Urgent needs are sent as needed via e-mail. If you would like to be part of this critical ministry to our church family and our community, please contact Valerie Rhine at valerie@gracechurch.com for details.

### **Family Matters**

Please pray for Becca and Reggie Coe, Mindy and Brian McCormick, and their families as they grieve the passing of Reggie's mother Irene.

Please pray for Clara Kirkland, Cindy and Terry Kirkland, and their families as they grieve the passing of Clara's husband Norman.

Please pray for Steve Love and his family as they grieve the passing of Steve's daughter Jessica.

## This Week

## Churchwide

#### **Worship Services**

Sunday, 9:00-10:15 AM or 10:30-11:45 AM

#### **Bible Fellowships**

Sunday, 9:00-10:15 AM or 10:30-11:45 AM

#### GriefShare

Sunday, 9:00-10:15 AM in the Library

## **Small Groups**

### Women's Community Group

Sunday, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Loft



#### **Samson Society**

Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

## College & Career

#### **Late Night**

Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 PM at the G.Y.M.

## **Senior High**

#### **Faith Mission**

Friday, 7:00-8:30 PM at Faith Mission

## **Junior High**

#### Girls' Lock-In

8:45 PM Friday-11:00 AM Saturday at the G.Y.M.

Many of our regular weekly activities are suspended this week due to Spring Break.

Most of these groups will resume meeting next week.

# **This Morning**

**Lesson 10: How to Know We're Abiding in Christ**—1 John 3:24–4:6 Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- **I. The 1st confirmation of abiding:** Obedience to the directives in Scripture confirms that we're engaged in an abiding experience with Jesus Christ—*1 John 3:24a*.
- **II. The 2nd confirmation of abiding:** The Holy Spirit confirms that we're engaged in an abiding experience with Jesus Christ when we're living on the basis of apostolic Christology—1 John 3:24b–4:6.
  - **A.** The source of the confirmation: The Holy Spirit enables us to analyze the genuineness of our mutual abiding experience with Jesus Christ—1 John 3:24b.
  - **B.** The charge to discern: The worldwide presence of false prophets forces us to examine the animating force behind every message about spirituality—1 John 4:1.
  - **C. The criteria to discern:** The animating power behind a religious teacher is discerned on the basis of his affirmation or denial of apostolic Christology—1 *John 4:2*–3.
    - 1. What the Holy Spirit affirms: The Holy Spirit will always generate a confession of Jesus Christ being both God and man in one person forever—1 John 4:2.

To confess "that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh" is to openly acknowledge that God the Son came from heaven to the earth as the Messiah, added a sinless human nature, which He'll retain forever, and was given the human name Jesus.

- 2. What the spirit of the Antichrist affirms: The animating force of the future Antichrist will not acknowledge the hypostatic union of Jesus Christ—1 John 4:3.
- **D. The ability to discern:** The Holy Spirit's work in our lives enables us to see through the deception of the false teachers—1 *John 4:4*.
- **E.** The need to discern: The source of the false teachers' doctrine is the kosmos which gives a ready ear to their false message—1 John 4:5.
- F. The crux in discernment: Those who know God recognize the veracity of apostolic Christianity and reject anything contrary to it—1 John 4:6.

## Discussion

These questions are offered each week to facilitate further discussion of this morning's topic in small group settings such as Community Groups or over dinner with family and friends. We hope you find them helpful to your spiritual growth.

- 1. What analogy did the Savior use to explain the relationship between the Father, the Son, and us in John 15:1–8? According to this analogy, what does "abiding in Christ" involve? What is the fruit? What stages does a vine branch go through in order to become extremely fruitful?
- 2. What is the first indication that we're abiding in Christ according to 1 John 3:24a? What does that involve? In what way do you think Jesus Christ abides or "makes His home" in us?
- 3. Who else reassures us that we are abiding in His Son, and He is abiding in us according to the last half of verse 24? The explanation of how He assures us is found in 1 John 4:1–6.
- 4. Why does every teacher of spirituality need to be critically evaluated according to verse 1? How prevalent a problem do you think that false teachers and prophets were in the first century according to Acts 20:28–30 and 2 Peter 2:1–3? Do you think those concerns are still valid today? What specific part of apostolic teaching do we need to examine in order to determine the source of the "spirit" animating a teacher or prophet?
- 5. Why is each specific part of the phrase "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh" absolutely essential?
- 6. Who alone can enable us to see through the deceit and allure of the false "spirits" who animate false prophets and teachers according to verse 4?
- 7. What two contrasting sources of beliefs are explained in verses 5–6? What is the net result of the differing belief systems derived from the two sources? What is the crux in determining "the spirit of truth and the spirit of error"?