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



Join us for a night of fellowship and fun! Rachel Archer will be our guest speaker. Please bring your favorite snack or dessert to share.



Dads—we still have room for a few more families at this evening's Father + Daughter Night. Cost is \$20 per family.



The Christ Question Confirmed: This two-day seminar featuring guest lecturer Dr. Vern Palmisano provides medical and biblical insight into questions about Jesus' birth and nature. May 3 and 4 at 6:30 PM, with a May 4 noon lunch session at Luby's (limited seating available).

Why I Still Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist: This eight-week study taught by our pastoral staff tackles questions about God, biology, and the Bible. Begins Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 PM and runs through the month of June.

Planning to join us? Be sure to sign up online at gracechurch.com/studies or in the Main Hall today!

Grace Church

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George CastroJunior High Pastor

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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



April 17, 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

Infant Dedication—Sunday, May 8

If you would like to dedicate your child (age 18 months or younger) during worship on Sunday, May 8, please contact Valerie Rhine at 940-692-4251 or valerie@gracechurch.com.

Support Our Senior High Jamaica Mission Team

The month of April holds several opportunities to support our students who will be traveling to the Jamaica Deaf Village this summer:

Spring Banquet—This Friday, 6:30–8:30 PM

This evening of good food and musical entertainment is organized by our Senior Adult ministry team and staffed by our students. \$10 per person, register in the Main Hall today.

El Chico Profit Share—Next Sunday, 5:00–10:00 PM

Dine out at El Chico and a portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit our mission team—just let the hostess know you're with Grace Church!

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

Community Groups

Sunday, 5:30-7:30 PM in various homes

Men

Samson Society

Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

Friday Morning Study

Friday, 6:30-7:30 AM in the Tejas Room

Adult Studies

The Book of Matthew

Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 AM in the Dining Room

Senior Adults

Spring Banquet

Friday, 6:30–8:30 PM in the Children's Area

College & Career

College Student Lunch

Sunday, 11:45 AM-2:00 PM in the Mesquite Room

Late Night

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

Senior High

Senior High Youth

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

Junior High

Junior High Youth

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

5th & 6th Grade

Breakaway

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Loft

Children

Father + Daughter Night

Sunday, 6:00-7:30 PM at the Country Club



Later This Month:

We hope you'll join us for our spring Community Outreach Team project as we partner with Christmas in Action to make repairs to the home of someone in need. If you can swing a hammer, plant a tree, or haul debris, stop by our information table in the Main Hall today!

This Morning

Lesson 13: Why Keeping God's Commandments is Doable—1 John 5:3b–13 Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. The nature of His commandments: God's commandments are not too alien and demanding for a believer in Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:4; 11:30; James 1:25)—1 John 5:3b.
- **II.** The nature of our ability: Everyone who has believed in God's Son has been given a new heart in order to obey God's commandments—1 John 5:4–5.

Note: There are two types of overcoming: positional, which is gained by faith in Jesus Christ, and experiential, which comes from on-going faith and obedience to the Scriptures.

- **A.** The provision: Our new hearts (nature) are impervious to the powerful influence of the world system around us (cp. 2:16)—1 John 5:4a.
- **B.** The channel: The means to appropriate a new heart and positionally overcome the world, is by taking God at His word (faith)—1 John 5:4b.
- **C.** The key: Since the key to positionally overcoming the world is faith, it is the key to experientially overcoming the world system by obeying God's commandments (Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 11:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7)—1 John 5:5.
- **III.** The nature of our faith: Faith in Jesus Christ must be based on God's threefold witness, which also provides assurance of eternal life—1 John 5:6–13.
 - **A.** Its basis: The basis of our faith in Jesus Christ is God's threefold witness about Him—1 John 5:6–8.
 - **1. The water** refers to His baptism, which inaugurated His public ministry (Matthew 3:13–17).
 - **The blood** refers to His death, which was the goal of His public ministry (John 19:30).
 - 3. The Spirit refers to the Holy Spirit's involvement in the Savior's ministry (Matthew 12:22–32), baptism (John 1:32), and death (Hebrews 9:14).
 - **B.** Its assurance: Faith in God's threefold testimony of His Son assures us of eternal life— 1 John 5:9–13.
 - 1. God's testimony about His Son should be accepted far more readily than any human testimony—1 John 5:9.
 - **2.** God's testimony about His Son can be accepted or rejected—1 John 5:10.
 - God's testimony about His Son specifies that He is the exclusive source of eternal life—1 John 5:11–12.
 - **4.** Belief in God's testimony about His Son comes with the guarantee that we possess eternal life—1 John 5:13.

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.

- Why do God's commandments seem like they are difficult to obey? Is that equally true for regenerate and unregenerate people?
- 2. In considering the issue of overcoming the world, how does 1 John 5:4–5 conflict with Revelation 2:7 and 26? What are some of the ways the conflict could be resolved?
- 3. The original Greek text of 1 John 5:7–8 is almost certainly not found in the original God-breathed Scriptures, but verse 6 provides the three parts of God's witness about His Son. What do each of the three points indicate about Jesus Christ? What is the purpose of providing three points as His witness according to Deuteronomy 19:15?
- 4. What has God testified about His Son according to verses 11–12? Summarize God's testimony about eternal life and His Son in your own words. What strikes you about these two verses?
- 5. What happens when someone believes God's testimony about His Son? What happens when a person rejects that testimony?
- 6. What assurance does God want us to have when we accept His testimony by believing in His Son according to verse 13? Why is it important for us to continue believing in the name of the Son of God?