

Dear Grace Family,

God loves Grace Community Church, and I love it too. This booklet, GRACE LIFE 2017, is intended to encourage and help you in your daily walk with the Lord. It is also intended to identify and explain some of the key biblical distinctives that shape who we are as a community of believers. God's Word (the Bible) is foundational to Grace Community's philosophy of ministry. It is the only trustworthy foundation, and God has delivered His Word to us so that we will follow it and experience the blessings He has for us.

Over the years I have come to recognize that a Christian can attend a church for many years and yet not really have a good understanding of the things that should matter most. GRACE LIFE 2017 addresses these areas. I believe that if Grace Community Church embraces these truths as a congregation we will be maturing, united, joyful, blessed, effective and fruitful for God's service. As you read the articles, you will come across many Scripture references. I invite you to have your Bible open and to read the actual passages. Nothing can replace the value of reading the Bible for yourself (Hebrews 4:12 ... hey, that's the first one to look up!)

One of the greatest blessings I have experienced as the Senior Pastor of Grace Community is the privilege of serving with such a wonderful staff. They have contributed some of the articles in GRACE LIFE 2017 and I am sure they will encourage you the same way they have encouraged me.

The booklet is a collection of individual articles. In that sense it doesn't read like a story, it is more of a reference tool. One of the most difficult challenges we faced in putting it together was figuring out in what order to arrange the articles. As Westerners, we are inclined to think that the first topics are the most important and those found toward the back are secondary concerns at best. I happen to think all of it is important and can be helpful to you so I hope you eventually read all of it, in whatever order you choose!

Beloved, the Lord has been so good and kind to Grace Community Church. Philippians 3:20 reminds us that, as believers, our citizenship is in Heaven and that we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. But God has saved us to also experience something new and something wonderful here and now, in this present life. I hope and pray that GRACE LIFE 2017 will help you experience this new life to a greater degree than ever before.

Grace To You,

Pastor Jay