

NEW TO GC?

Stop by the Guest Connection Desk today after our worship assembly. We'd love to meet you!

WELCOME!

Last Sunday I used the term "inclusive" quite a bit. That word is one that comes with a good bit of baggage these days. When people in our country and age speak about the church being inclusive, they're supposing we should be fully accepting of someone, regardless of their sin. They mean that the sin itself should be reassessed and relabeled so people can come into the kingdom of God without having to change at all. In other words, there would be no cost to discipleship.

This is different from what Jesus and the early church practiced and preached regarding inclusion.

Would you touch a leper? No; that person is unclean, and would make you unclean as well. Some unclean things could be purified, but something like leprosy was pretty much hopeless. For Jews, if something was unclean it couldn't be used for God's service. So for the legalism the Pharisees were pushing, why bother with anything or anyone who was unclean?

Would you eat with the "sinners" and tax collectors or let a prostitute touch you with her hair? No; these people had willfully turned their backs on God, His Law and their fellow Jew. They were deliberately living lives of sin, why bother with them?

The world around these people took one look at them and judged them as unworthy or hopeless. Jesus saw them differently. These were the sick ones who needed a doctor. They were in darkness and needed a light. So Jesus gave them what no one else would—a chance.

People got a second chance, but sin never did. Jesus began His ministry calling people to "repent for the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mt 3:2). He reminded His followers that "small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Mt 7:14). And again, "whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Lk 14:27).

Everyone is welcome to come, but everyone has to lose their life to find life in Jesus. The good news is—they did! Eventually, Jesus would say to the chief priests and elders, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you" (Mt. 21:31-32).

For a longer, more academic read I suggest this article by Derek Rishmawy, "How to Really Be Inclusive Like Jesus."

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-to-be-inclusive-like-jesus>

Rob



UPCOMING



For more details on upcoming events, see the GC Events calendar online or in the GC app.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

You're the One

Welcome

Jim Beasley

Faithful
The Joy of the Lord
Lord, Speak to Me

Communion

Keenan Kessler

Faithful Love

Offering

Jim Beasley

Kids Dismissal

Jim Beasley

Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty
Whom Shall I Fear?

Message: **Keeping Stride**
Break the Huddle: Part 3 of 4

Rob Shaver

Holy Spirit, Dwell in Me

Next Steps

Jim Beasley

Shepherd's Prayer

Danny Lee

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

"For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever before me. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin. Many are those who are my vigorous enemies; those who hate me without reason are numerous. Those who repay my good with evil slander me when I pursue what is good. O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God. Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior." (Ps.38:17-22)

Our Father, teach us the benefit of confession and repentance. May we learn the profit of recovering and seeking that which is good while calling on you, for it is through the faith of Christ that delivers and secures, and brings salvation. Amen.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

gracechapelchurch.com/pray



STACK IT UP: Which would mean more to you? Something made by a stranger, or something made by your child? Your child's creation would be the clear winner because knowing who made something can add value to that thing. We want our preschoolers to know that God made everything, and since God made SO many good things, we are going to Stack It Up this month — ALL OF IT — from day one through day seven!

REMEMBER THIS: "God saw everything He had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1:31, NIV)



CANVAS: MADE TO CREATE: When we look outside and see the beautiful world around us, we're reminded that God is great, powerful, and creative. Everything we see points to God's immense creativity.

Jesus used creativity in the way He told parables, performed miracles, and helped His followers understand more about what it means to be part of God's kingdom. We're also created in God's image, and when we create, we reflect the image of God to the world around us.

REMEMBER THIS: "We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10, NIV)



YOUTH NIGHT

Sundays, 5-8 p.m., GC Youth Room

For anyone in 6th-12th grades to explore how to follow Jesus and to connect with others in a safe, fun environment.

Join us tonight for Youth Night for the second part of our new series, *The Family: The Church as Jesus Intended*.



New YN series begins tonight!

UPCOMING YOUTH NIGHT SCHEDULE

TONIGHT: Youth Night, 5-8 p.m.

8/27: Youth Night, 5-8 p.m.

9/3: Ultimate Youth Night, 5-8 p.m. at Fowler Park

9/10: Youth Night, 5-8 p.m.

For more details on upcoming events, see the GC Youth calendar online or in the GC app.



STAY CONNECTED

Text your Remind code to 81010:

GC Youth Parents: @gcympparents

Middle School Students: @gcymms

High School Students: @gcymhs

FOLLOW US!

@gcyouthga



Follow us @gracechapelga

Newsletter requests: kristy@gracechapelchurch.com

LOCATION

6755 Majors Road
Cumming, GA 30040

(678) 455-6845

SERVICES

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

WATCH LIVE

gracechapelchurch.com/live

LAST WEEK (8/13/23)

Attendance 473

YTD Contributions \$762,704