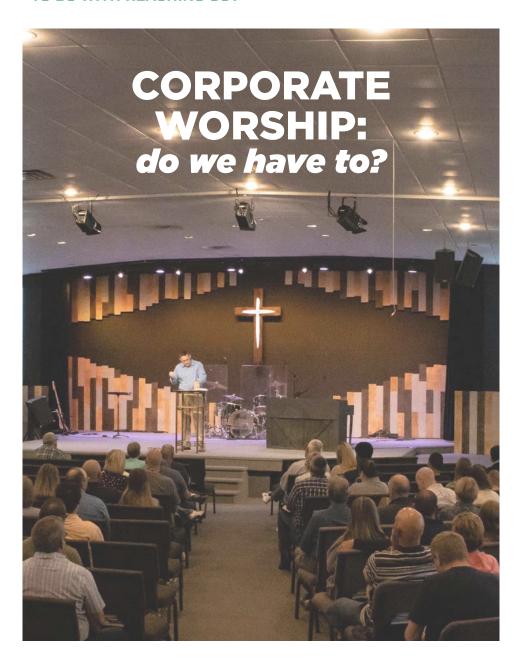
## WHY YOU SHOULD BE INTENTIONAL AS A GRANDPARENT

## WHAT DOES OBEDIENCE HAVE TO DO WITH REACHING OUT



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Learn more and/or sign up for events at graceb3.org/events

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS June 11 10:15-11:30AM

If you consider Grace your home church, this class is for you. Learn what makes Grace tick and how you can join us on our mission to glorify God by being and making disciples who make disciples. Membership means you're deciding to be an active part of the vision, goals, and leadership of Grace. Additionally, the pastoral staff and elders can better care for and disciple you.

### JUNIOR HIGH SUMMER GROUP Tuesdays Beginning June 13 9:30AM

Everyday we are bombarded with short, clever sayings that tell us what we should believe, but it can be confusing. Let's talk about these ideas, ask questions, find answers, and have some fun together at the same time! 7th and 8th graders are invited to join us weekly for meaningful discussion, hang out time, games, and snacks. Bring a friend!

## HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER GROUP: BOOK STUDY & HANGOUT TIME Thursdays Beginning June 15 7PM

"In this home we believe..." You have likely seen the colorful yard signs proclaiming short sayings that are popular as truth in our schools and communities today. Do these statements have a sound, thoughtful basis? Let's talk about them! Students in grades 9-12 are invited to engage with five popular mantras of the day. We will use the book *The Secular Creed* by Rebecca McLaughlin. Each participant will get a copy and friends are welcome to join us.

### **ADVENTURELAND TRIP June 17**

Join the Student Ministry as they set out to Adventureland Park for a full day of fun and lasting memories. This is a great day to get to know other students and leaders who you may not regularly interact with. Any student who just completed 7th - 12th grade is welcome to come! Please register by June 8.

### **MEMBER'S MEETING June 26 7PM**

The Elder Board and Senior Leadership Team strongly encourage all members to attend this meeting as it is the primary opportunity for church members to be together and discuss church business with church leaders. This year's meeting will cover financial reports, ongoing activities, and the church's plan for the property on Kansas Ave.

Coming Soon • Backyard Bible Club

# CHILL

keeping our cool through faith in God







've worked hard to reach retirement, served my church for years, and put other's needs ahead of my own. And, I've raised my children. Now is the time to enjoy my grandchildren on my terms – sugar them up, spoil them, and send them back home. They are so cute and fun for a few days, but "thank you Jesus," I am not raising kids today! I pray for them, give them things I did not give their parents, and hopefully they will turn out OK. I just want to disconnect a bit, relax, and enjoy life."

If this sounds familiar to you, it should. This is a normal attitude of grandparents in our culture. Not just within the secular world — it's also prevalent amongst over 30 million grandparents who identify as Christian. It also describes my thinking about retirement until God opened my eyes to Scripture (like a 2x4 to the side of the head). I knew... but I did not *know*.

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children-" Deuteronomy 4:9

That is just one verse among many in the Bible which is directed at grandparents. Did you know that the Bible says as much, if not more, about grandparenting than it does about parenting? As followers of Jesus we should take our direction from Scripture, not culture.

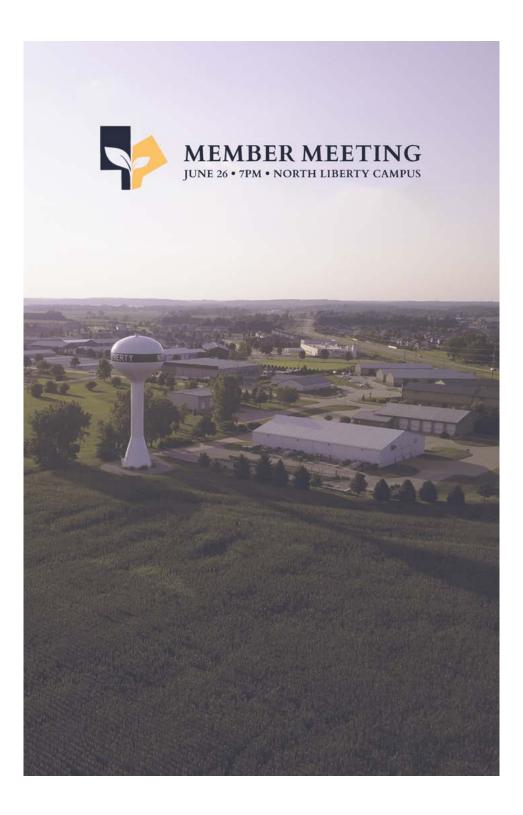
You might be thinking, "what about our grandchildren's parents?" They have important and primary responsibility and influence — this is clear — but we're also called to support, supplement, and encourage them too. God directs us to intentionally train and interact with our grandchildren, regardless of circumstance or barriers. To accomplish this each of us need tools, resources, and other grandparents.

### My commitment:

- I want to see my grandchildren in heaven with me.
- I will do whatever it takes to make that happen.
- I will have a plan guided by God's word.
- I will be intentional every day towards that plan.

Ask God to search your heart and show you how truly you are concerned with your children's and grandchildren's personal relationship with Jesus. Do you really believe that your life on earth will be over in a few years? Do you really trust the commands and promises of Scripture? Do you love your children and grandchildren more than pleasure? Do you want to leave a legacy that influences your family beyond this generation?

If you're like me, and God is opening your eyes to his calling for your life as a grandparent, join us by going to the church website at *graceb3.org/grandparents*. Learn more about being an intentional Christian grandparent and join others like you who love their grandchildren and want to see them follow Jesus.



## **REGISTER AT GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS**





### By Worship Director Zack Stanton

ave you ever heard someone say, "You don't have to go to church to be a Christian — Jesus really just wants us to trust in him."? They are well-meaning in that they want to avoid legalism and remove barriers for those they are witnessing to. Jesus doesn't require that we jump through hoops to be in a relationship with him. This is true! But it unintentionally removes one of the most important aspects of the Christian life — the church!

The church is the body of Christ. The New Testament makes it very clear that Christian community — "body life" — is not only normal, but essential. Pick just about any one of Paul's letters. Or 1 Peter. Or Hebrews, or James, or 1 John. These letters show us that the **Christian faith takes place in community.** I recently came across this statement from a worship handbook, and I LOVE how it conveys this truth:

"There is no salvation apart from the body of Christ. We are saved into the Church, and in gathering for worship, we are formed and informed together. We return each week to our services in a rhythmic process, reminded in these settings that the 'concentrated' worship of Christ's body propels the private work of total life worship God desires us to carry out beyond our gatherings. As we engage in fellowship, pray and sing together, and hear the spoken Word, we make way for the Spirit's movement in our lives. Humbled before God and each other, we are equipped and emboldened to do the work of ministry. In this way, Christian worship serves discipleship and evangelism. It is the fuel of our maturity and the substance of our testimony."

Take a moment and read that again. That paragraph is dynamite! I get excited thinking about those truths. Let's unpack a few things.

We must understand that when we are saved, we are now in the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul demonstrates how crucial it is for us to rightly see our role in the body. Every person is essential. We are all responsible for the work of ministry, edifying and building one another up. And in order to do that, we must be together. In our previous article on corporate worship, we saw that the Greek word for church means "assembly."

As one author puts it, "A church is more than a gathering, because it scatters each week. Its members are still part of that church during the week as they are ambassadors of Christ in their daily lives. But a church is never less than a gathering." We can't truly function as a body if we don't gather. We can't encourage or serve one another. We can't seek the Lord together. We can't sing together, pray together, or hear God's word together. Of course, modern technology allows us to do some of these things — but not together. And we know it's not the same. God has called us to deeper fellowship than that. And while we don't 'go to church' to be saved, we are called by God to gather together, and church is meant to bring us joy as we worship him together.





SECULAR CREED" BOOK STUDY & HANGOUT TIME



THURSDAYS • JUNE 15 - AUG 10 • 7-8:30PM

COST: \$5\*

### **REGISTER NOW AT GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS**

\*WE DO NOT WANT COST TO PROHIBIT ANYONE FROM PARTICIPATING.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE.

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By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman
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o one that I know likes being told to obey. I imagine that this is true of most people. It is one thing to decide for yourself to follow an order or instruction. But it is much more difficult to be told that you ought to or have to do something. In part this is because people don't like being told what to do in general. People, and especially we Western people, like to be independent in our thoughts and actions. If we are going to do anything, we want it to be a matter of personal will and choice.

And yet, being told what to do is only part of our struggle with obedience. The larger aspect of our discomfort is a matter of self-righteous pride. Our sense of "self-rightness" is wounded when someone asks us to obey because the clear implication of the request is that we aren't presently obedient. In other words, when people ask you to obey, they imply you aren't obeying, and hearing that makes us feel bad.

This is an article about reaching out. It is a short reminder about the importance and value of taking the time to share what you believe with other people. So why start with thoughts about obedience? Why begin an encouragement to go and make disciples of Jesus with a recognition that being told to obey makes us feel bad? The answer is simple because Jesus connects these two things.

Specifically, Jesus connects the obedience of his disciples with their outreach to the nations. He commands his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 to reach out to all nations. The command to reach out is a call to obedience. Certainly, in the gospel stories, we see that Jesus' disciples have been reaching out. So they, at least, don't need to worry that the call to obedience is a result of their total failure.

But it was still likely difficult for them to hear. For one, Jesus told them to go to all peoples and every ethnicity. The disciples knew that salvation came from the Jewish people in the person of Jesus. They wrongly assumed that this meant salvation was only for Jewish people. We see in these verses in Matthew that Jesus clearly challenges that notion with his command. Second, the disciples had been reaching out. As mentioned above, we see in the gospels that they were going town to town, spreading the good news of Jesus. This command from Jesus might have felt like he was ignoring the work they had already done. I can hear them saying, "Why do you need to tell us to reach out, Lord? Aren't we already doing that?"

The truth is, the disciples were reaching out, but Jesus wanted more. He wanted the gospel to go to more people

in more nations. He wanted the very ends of the earth to hear the good news of great joy. The disciples were ready to be satisfied with Jews hearing the gospel. Jesus wanted the Jews, the Greeks, and everyone else to hear the gospel. Jesus wanted (and still wants) something bigger, for his disciples to choose his will before their own—to seek his kingdom first.

Jesus is clear: reaching out is very important. Getting to know the people who live near you, the people you attend church with, the people at your children's school, the people where you work, and so on is important. All of these relationships are potential opportunities to share the gospel in word and deed. If you don't reach out and share your life, others will miss chances to hear who God is and what he has accomplished. Likewise, you will miss out on support, encouragement, and developing the connections that make life in the Body of Christ all that Jesus intends it to be. But simply knowing that these things are important isn't enough. Hearing that they're valuable isn't sufficient. We also need to be told to obey in this regard, because, left to ourselves, we won't do it. Left to ourselves, most of us won't even reach out to the people who live in our own homes.

Therefore, obey! Hear the command of Jesus: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 28:18-20)

Hear that he has called you to obedience. This isn't a matter of preference for you. Put his will before your own. Seek his kingdom before your own.

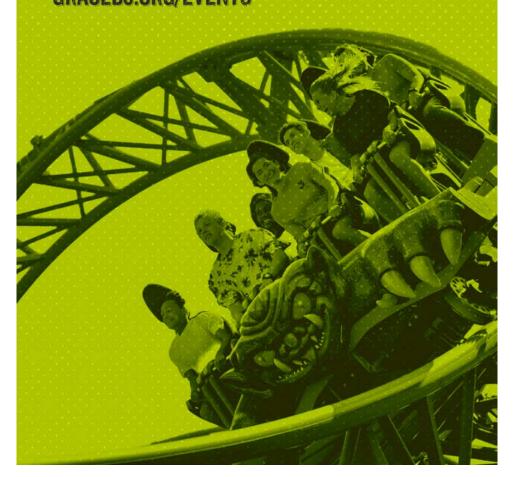
But also hear that you aren't doing this alone. Jesus is with us to the end of the age. Until he returns or calls us home, he is with us by the power of his Holy Spirit. What's more, he has given us each other. Each person we reach out with is a fellow disciple. Each person we reach out to is a potential disciple. The more we obey, the more we can see the Body of Christ working as he intends it to work.

Don't feel bad about this call to obedience. Maybe you have been reaching out; take this as encouragement to do it all the more as you anticipate the return of your savior. And maybe you haven't talked to anyone about Jesus; that can change today. If you are convicted by the call, that is good! Here is your opportunity to start doing what you know you should.

Remember, we don't need to and aren't supposed to obey in our power. The Holy Spirit works in and through us when we submit ourselves to the Lord. Submit yourself, therefore, to the Lord. Pray that his kingdom would come and that his will would be done. Thank him for all that he has given you. Praise him for who he is. Ask him to lead you away from every temptation and into his glorious light. Then reach out with that same light, knowing that he will work in you to accomplish his will. #

## STUDENT MINISTRY'S ADVENTURELAND TRIP

REGISTER BY JUNE 8 AT GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS





he annual member meeting for Grace Community Church will take place Monday, June 26, at 7pm. We anticipate that the meeting will last between 60-90 minutes. As the name suggests, this meeting is for the members of the church.

For many years, this annual meeting has served as the primary opportunity for the church to discuss financial matters and organizational health. Recently, though, the staff and elders have sought to adjust the focus of this meeting to place greater emphasis on the role of church members. That adjustment continues this year, with even greater attention being given to the ways in which members of Grace can participate in the life of the church.

This year's meeting will still include the regular report on church finances. We will provide reports on the past year's activity and a

forecast for the coming year. These reports will also be provided in advance to the members of the church so that they can review them and ask questions at the meeting.

Members should also expect descriptions of ongoing activities at Grace, as well as new opportunities for growth and involvement. In the past, Grace has taken a staff-heavy approach to ministry work and activities. This approach is both expensive to sustain and ultimately unhelpful to the church as it encourages the larger portion of the Body to depend on just a few members. Therefore, the annual meeting will include new and renewed calls for volunteer engagement at a variety of levels within the church.

Finally, this year's annual meeting will cover plans for the church's property on Kansas Ave. Many will remember that the church purchased about 14 acres of property on the west side of North Liberty a couple of years ago. Until recently, there have been no definite plans for this land. At the June meeting, the elders are prepared to announce their intentions for that land and how those plans relate to the the church's future.

As stated above, the annual meeting is for members of the church. If you are not a member, but would like to become one, consider attending the membership class scheduled for June 11. If you aren't sure if you want to be a member, consider talking to one of the elders, and reading our membership covenant. That document is available on the church website. Go to *graceb3.org/beliefs* to find our membership covenant, statement of beliefs, paper on baptism, and more.

We look forward to seeing you in June! №

BECOME A GUIDE IN THE CHALLENGING "GAME" OF LIFE VOLUNTEER AS A STUDENT MINISTRY LEADER! EMAIL BRIAN AT BRIANH@GRACEB3.ORG

