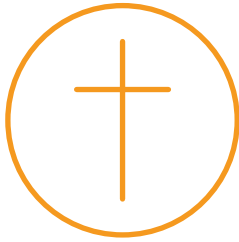


Core Values



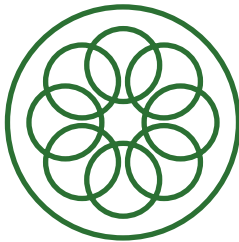
Pre-eminence of Jesus

While many things vie for priority in life, we are committed to centering our lives on Jesus—our Savior, our Lord, the Way to the Father, our example and enabler, our High Priest, and the One who is worthy of our worship and total allegiance. The main thing is to keep the Main One (Jesus) the main thing.



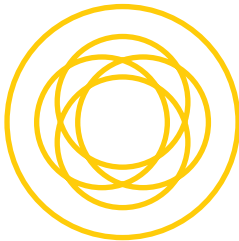
Authority of the Word

The Bible is the foundation of who we are, what we believe, and everything we do. We are committed to preaching, teaching, counseling, sharing, and living by the sufficiency of the whole counsel of God because it contains everything we need for life and godliness. Real life change is found in the Spirit-empowered Word, not our ideas, thoughts, or opinions. God's Word is written in ink while our plans and theologies are in



Redemptive Community

We are broken people loved by the Father, redeemed by Jesus, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We strive to minister God's love by repairing the brokenness and bringing those who are lost to sin into restoration, by the power of the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus. Our focus is Jesus; our authority is the Word; our dependence is prayer; and our aim is Christ-likeness as we live together as the community of God's redeemed.



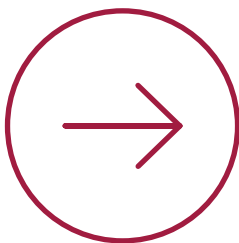
Biblical Unity in Diversity

Within the framework of sound doctrine, we value an atmosphere of theological freedom with humility and a non-divisive spirit. We want to reflect the unified beauty of Father, Son, and Spirit, participating in the building of the multi-faceted Kingdom of our triune God. In our theological systems, our ministry forms, and our personal relationships we are committed to biblical unity in diversity.



Extravagant Grace

We desire to be a community of believers who treat others with the same extravagant grace that God has lavished upon us. We yearn to demonstrate this grace through our church culture and our lives in a way that is transparent, real, and helpful. We are blessed to be a blessing to each other, the city of Indianapolis, and the world.



The Call to Go!

All of us are called to be Spirit-empowered catalysts for life change in our areas of personal influence. We approach ministry with a passionate resolve to equip the saints to engage our culture, addressing the most pressing problems, and reaching the neediest people in our city and the world. While the body of Christ is made up of a variety of gifts, the calling is the same: GO!

Pre-eminence of Jesus

Colossians 1:15-20

June 23, 2024

By Kimberly Miller, Director of Groups & Classes



While many things vie for priority in life, we are committed to centering our lives on Jesus—our Savior, our Lord, the Way to the Father, our example and enabler, our High Priest, and the One who is worthy of our worship and total allegiance. The main thing is to keep the Main One (Jesus) the main thing.

Overview

Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians for the purpose of displaying the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. The Church at Colossae had a burgeoning ministry demonstrating fruit and furthering the gospel. This was great news except there was another report of heretical teaching which troubled Paul deeply. The local believers were being influenced by a type of Jewish and/or folk religion with an unhealthy emphasis on angels and demons (2:8; 2:15), legalism (2:16; 2:20), and asceticism (2:17; 2:21-23). Paul's teaching sought to show that Jesus is the full revelation of God and nothing more is necessary.

Discuss

1. What does pre-eminence mean? What things vie for pre-eminence in the hearts of mankind?
2. Take a moment to write down what Paul says concerning the Lord Jesus Christ from Colossians 1:15-20. What facts about Jesus are emphasized?
3. Verse 17 says Jesus is "before all things." Similarly, verse 18 says he is pre-eminent in everything. Is Christ first in your life? How is this evident in your thoughts, schedule, relationships, work, family life, and neighboring? Share one example with the group.
4. When life seems to be falling apart, how does the truth that Jesus holds all things together comfort you? In what ways is he holding you together in this season of life?
5. Paul's teaching on Christ countered a false system of beliefs influencing the church. In what ways is the modern church susceptible to false teaching? How can Christians today get off balance theologically leading to spiritual paranoia or religious performance? Give examples from your own life.

Pray

1. Praise Jesus for the attributes ascribed to him in the text.
2. Pray the Spirit will deepen your understanding of the supremacy of Christ.
3. Pray your life will reflect the truth of Christ's pre-eminence.

4. Pray for your church and its leaders to be protected from errant theology.
5. Pray for people in your life, group, and/or church who need Jesus to hold things together.

Prepare

Practice reciting [College Park's mission and Core Values](#). Before next Sunday, read Psalm 19 and consider the ways you see the glory of God in creation. Ask God to show you his glory through his Word.

Authority of the Word

Psalm 19

June 30, 2024

By Mitch DePoy, Pastor of Groups & Classes



The Bible is the foundation of who we are, what we believe, and everything we do. We are committed to preaching, teaching, counseling, sharing, and living by the sufficiency of the whole counsel of God because it contains everything we need for life and godliness. Real life change is found in the Spirit-empowered Word, not our ideas, thoughts, or opinions. God's Word is written in ink while our plans and theologies are in pencil.

Overview

Psalm 19 is a hymn of praise to God for the revelation of himself. This psalm shows us three ways God speaks to us: through creation (vv. 1-6), through Scripture (vv. 7-11), and through his Son who fulfills our deepest longings (vv. 12-14). God's Word is reliable and authoritative because it was inspired by the same God who created and sustains the universe. We also know it's reliable because through it we experience the transforming power of God's grace in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Discuss

1. What is the most beautiful and/or amazing natural place you have visited? How did it make you feel?
2. What things can we know about God simply by observing creation? List as many attributes of God as possible that are communicated to us through natural revelation.
3. What would you say if a friend asked you why you believe the Bible is true? What are the most common objections to the inerrancy and authority of Scripture, and how would you respond?
4. Verses 7-11 describe several things God's Word does in the hearts of his people. It revives the soul, makes us wise, brings us joy, enlightens our understanding, and motivates our obedience. Share a testimony with your group about how God's Word has done one of these in your heart recently.
5. Consider the five ways of feeding on God's Word: hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating. Which one of these are you most strong in? Which ones could you grow in? What are some helpful means of deploying these methods that have worked for you? Consider committing with your group to try a new method of Bible intake for the next week or two.

Pray

1. Praise God for his attributes revealed in nature and his Word.
2. Confess dryness of soul or deficiencies of discipline this discussion has revealed.
3. Thank God for his written Word and the incarnate Word, Jesus.

4. Pray for the advancement of God's Word in your family, church, community, and world.

Prepare

Practice reciting [College Park's mission and Core Values](#). Before next Sunday, read Luke 7:36-50 and meditate on the text by summarizing its key message in ten words or less.

Extravagant Grace

Luke 7:36-50

July 7, 2024

By Keyon Atkins, Pastoral Resident



We desire to be a community of believers who treat others with the same extravagant grace that God has lavished upon us. We yearn to demonstrate this grace through our church culture and our lives in a way that is transparent, real, and helpful. We are blessed to be a blessing to each other, the city of Indianapolis, and the world.

Overview

Jesus is invited to dine at the house of a Pharisee named Simon. A woman, who was a known sinner, comes to Jesus, and she weeps and anoints his feet with perfume. Simon criticizes Jesus for allowing her to touch him. Jesus responds with a parable about two debtors and teaches that greater forgiveness leads to greater love. Then he rebukes Simon's lack of hospitality and love while commending the woman and forgiving her sins.

Discuss

1. How does Jesus's response to the woman's actions exemplify grace? What does this teach us about the nature of God's forgiveness? How has God shown similar grace in your life?
2. Compare and contrast the attitudes of Simon and of the woman towards Jesus. How do their actions reflect their understanding of how one relates to God? In what ways are we like Simon?
3. Have you ever felt like the woman in the story, deeply aware of your need for forgiveness? How did experiencing grace effect change in your heart and your actions?
4. Why do you think Simon judged the woman and Jesus so harshly? How can we guard against having a judgmental attitude towards others in our own lives?
5. What role does faith play in experiencing and extending grace, and how can we find peace through forgiveness?

Pray

1. Praise God for his never-ending grace and understanding.
2. Ask for a heart of true repentance and humility and acknowledge your need for his forgiveness and mercy.
3. Pray for opportunities to express your love and gratitude for God's forgiveness in tangible ways.
4. Pray that you will forgive others as you have been forgiven.

5. Pray that God would strengthen your faith and trust in him.

Prepare

Practice reciting [College Park's mission and Core Values](#). Before next Sunday, read Colossians 3:11-17 and reflect on the following:

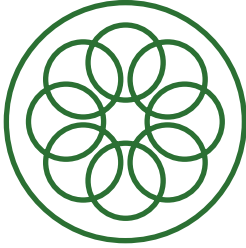
1. How can we, as a community, actively work towards breaking down barriers of division and embrace unity in Christ in our daily interactions?
2. What practical steps can we take to clothe ourselves with these virtues and let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, both individually and as a community?

Redemptive Community

Colossians 3:11-17

July 14, 2024

By Mitch DePoy, Pastor of Groups & Classes



We are broken people loved by the Father, redeemed by Jesus, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We strive to minister God's love by repairing the brokenness and bringing those who are lost to sin into restoration, by the power of the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus. Our focus is Jesus; our authority is the Word; our dependence is prayer; and our aim is Christ-likeness as we live together as the community of God's redeemed.

Overview

Paul wrote the church in Colossae to help them understand “the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (1:27). In light of all that God is for us in Christ, we are called to live the reality of the gospel in the community of saints. Everything we do is for the glory of God (3:17), and we put his love and power on display in the world when we live out the reality of redemptive community.

Discuss

1. Verse 11 lists different groups of people who were divided ethnically, religiously, culturally, economically, etc. How might we make such a list with modern groups of people? What groups would be included?
2. What is meant by the phrase “Christ is all, and in all” in verse 11? How does that truth have corporate implications?
3. Consider what Christians ought to be and what Christians ought to do from this passage. Make a list of each. Where have you seen examples of these from others in your group?
4. What was your life like before you met Jesus? Reflect on “how much” the Lord has done for you (Mark 5:19). How has the community of God's people been an instrument of redemption and change in your life?
5. Who in your life is hardest to bear with in love? Is there anyone in your life you find hard to forgive? As appropriate, share this with the group. What would it look like to display Christ-like love towards this person?

Pray

1. Praise God for his communal trinitarian nature.
2. Thank God for the ways you have been blessed by your small group, church, and other Christian communities.
3. Ask God to work redemption out of the broken places in your life and the world.
4. Ask God to show you how you can be an agent of redemption.

Prepare

Practice reciting [College Park's mission and Core Values](#). Before next Sunday, read Matthew 22:34-40 and meditate on the text by making a list of ten or more applications. Complete it for each of the ten applications: "If this text is true, I should . . ."

Biblical Unity in Diversity

Matthew 22:34-40

July 21, 2024

Kimberly Miller, Director of Groups & Classes



Within the framework of sound doctrine, we value an atmosphere of theological freedom with humility and a non-divisive spirit. We want to reflect the unified beauty of Father, Son, and Spirit, participating in the building of the multi-faceted Kingdom of our triune God. In our theological systems, our ministry forms, and our personal relationships we are committed to biblical unity in diversity.

Overview

Jesus is confronted by “experts in the Law,” the Pharisees. One of them asks Jesus which is the greatest commandment. Jesus answers by quoting from the Shema, a familiar Jewish confession of faith: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Deut. 6:5). He also quotes from Leviticus 19:18: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” All the commandments of the law could be summarized with one word: love. Love God. Love your neighbor. But who is our neighbor? Our Core Value of biblical unity in diversity emphasizes the necessity to love one another despite cultural, ethnic, and theological differences. Satan wants to divide us, but we want the grace of God to be evident in our rich diversity and charity in theological debates.

Discuss

1. The Pharisees were scrupulous guardians of Old Testament law and rabbinic traditions. Why did the Pharisees ask this question of Jesus? In their minds, why would this question “test” Jesus?
2. The concept of theological triage is a way of categorizing Christian beliefs based on their importance. Consider the following beliefs: inerrancy of Scripture, believer’s baptism, divinity of Jesus, pretribulation rapture, contemporary worship, complementarianism, congregational government, young earth, speaking in tongues, the resurrection, political party. With your group, place each doctrine in one of the following categories:
 - a. Essentials - beliefs necessary to be a genuine Christian
 - b. Convictions - not essential to salvation but necessary for church unity and health
 - c. Preferences - beliefs we can “agree to disagree” on and walk together in loving unity
3. How does a multicultural church demonstrate love for God and bring him glory?
4. Why is racial justice oftentimes a difficult and controversial topic? Discuss this in your group in a loving way.

5. How are you intentionally pursuing biblical unity in diversity? Share an example with your group of how you have applied this value recently.

Pray

1. Thank God the Father for giving his Son for us. Thank Jesus for giving his life for us. Thank the Spirit for pouring the love of God into our hearts.
2. Confess ways you have failed to love others by demonstrating partiality or theological pride. Ask God to reveal blind spots in these areas.
3. Pray for our church to grow in loving cultural diversity. Ask God to help us accept and appreciate others who are different.
4. Pray for our church leaders to be discerning in theological triage.

Prepare

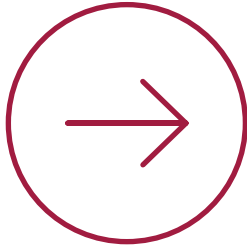
Practice reciting [College Park's mission and Core Values](#). Before next Sunday, read Romans 12 and meditate on the text by making a list of the commands and expressing each of them in your own words.

The Call to Go!

Romans 12:1-21

July 28, 2024

By Keyon Atkins, Pastoral Resident



All of us are called to be Spirit-empowered catalysts for life change in our areas of personal influence. We approach ministry with a passionate resolve to equip the saints to engage our culture, addressing the most pressing problems, and reaching the neediest people in our city and the world. While the body of Christ is made up of a variety of gifts, the calling is the same: GO!

Overview

Paul exhorts believers to offer their whole lives as sacrificial offerings of praise to God. He emphasizes the importance of humility and the use of everyone's diverse gifts to serve others and advance the kingdom. He also exhorts believers to let their love for one another be genuine and to cling to what is right and good.

Discuss

1. What does it mean practically to live in a way that is "holy and pleasing to God" in today's world? In what ways is this a challenge? How can we actively pursue transformation through the renewing of our minds?
2. How can we embrace and celebrate the diverse gifts and talents within our community or church? What are some practical ways we can encourage and support one another in using these gifts for God's glory? How are you using your gifts to build up the body and advance God's kingdom?
3. What are some challenges we face in practicing humility and genuinely loving others? How can we cultivate a spirit of humility and foster unity? What can your group do to serve the church or community?
4. Give an example of how you overcame evil with good recently.
5. Paul outlines various virtues like hospitality, empathy, and perseverance. What steps can we take individually and collectively to cultivate these virtues and live them out in our communities and beyond?

Pray

1. Pray for the grace to present yourself as a living sacrifice to God.
2. Ask for guidance in discerning and utilizing your gifts for the edification of the church and the advancement of God's kingdom.
3. Pray for deepening, genuine love and affection for others and for ways to reach them.
4. Thank God for the various opportunities to serve and go.

Prepare

Practice reciting [College Park's mission and Core Values](#). Before next Sunday, read 2 Samuel 1 and meditate on the text by picking one verse that summarizes the theme of the chapter.