

GRACE REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Order of Service

Prelude

Announcements

Silent Prayer

*Call to Worship: Psalm 119:1-8.

*Salutation

*Invocation

*Opening Hymn 303: Blessed Jesus, at Your Word.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11.

Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 104

Tithes and Offerings

Congregational prayer

*HYMN 139: Your Word is like a Garden, Lord.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:15-21.

Scripture Text: Matthew 12:15-21.

Sermon Title: A Servant to the Hurting and Helpless.

*Prayer of application

*Closing Hymn 518: Christ, of all my hopes the ground.

*Benediction

*Doxology [Hymn #731]

*Postlude

*Congregation Stands

The Lord Jesus said: "where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

Welcome: to our guests and visitors. May you receive strength from God's Word, and experience the love of Christ within our church family.

Schedule

- **Today:** Nursery is available for children up to 3 years old.
- **Sunday School:** for all ages at 9:00 am. The adult class is studying "Chosen by God" by R.C. Sproul.
- **Bible Study:** tonight at 6:00pm. 1 Samuel 2:12-36. God's Judgement upon wicked leaders.
- **This Wednesday:** Prayer meeting at 6:00 pm.
- **This Saturday:** membership class at 10:00 am.
- **Next Sunday:** baptisms of Waylon Vander Vorst and James Olson.
- **Oct. 2-3:** Special South-Central Classis meeting in Limon, CO, to administer an ordination exam for Licentiate Chris Bradley; to conduct two orthodoxy and purity of intent exams, one for Rev. Todd Seay and the other for Rev. Orrie Oosthuizen; and to admit Sovereign Grace Reformed Church (Morrill, NE) into membership.
- **Sat. Oct. 7:** at 8:30 am. Men's study on biblical leadership. *Topic:* Taking the Lead in Romance.
- **Oct. 15:** fellowship dinner. Set up: Martina Kilburn, Melinda Henderson, Sandy Koedam. Clean up: Danae Kilbur, Tiffany Hoff, Darin Mehlhaf, Kathleen Olson.
- **Wed. Oct. 18:** Consistory meeting at 6:30 pm.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Darrell Bentz is struggling with symptoms related to Parkinson's.
- Phyllis Grossmann is receiving weekly Physical Therapy.
- Portia Lenczowski is in Tuscaloosa, Alabama for internship till Dec.
- Expectant moms: Emily Griess, Rachel Savage, Rebekah Trimble.
- Mike and Rebekah Loghry. Mike is due home soon from deployment.

"Reformed worship presents a simple service in which the Word of God ... is read, preached, sung, prayed, and visibly administered in the sacraments" (*Worshipping with Calvin*); "we are entering into the special presence of God to praise Him and to listen to His Word.... As we meet with God, He speaks to us and we respond" (Maynard Koerner, *Pastoral Ministry*). "Blessed Jesus, at your Word we are gathered all to hear You; let our hearts and souls be stirred, by Your teachings, sweet and holy, drawn from earth to love you solely" (Stanza 1 of #303: Blessed Jesus, at Your Word)

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 39, Question & Answer 104

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE IN THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT? That I show all honor, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother, and to all in authority over me, submit myself with due obedience to all their good instruction and correction, and also bear patiently with their infirmities, since it is God's will to govern us by their hand.

The Fifth Commandment, "honor your father and your mother," is first in the second table of the law, because it is in the home where we begin to learn how to love our neighbor as our self and to submit to all authority in society. The purpose "of this commandment is the preservation of civil order," and parental authority and government "was the first established among men" (Ursinus, 575). Behind this commandment is the truth that God governs us through various kinds of authority (Rom. 13:1-2).

The only exception to our obedience to authority is if any authority demands that we obey them contrary to God's will; in which case, "we ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

The basic meaning of the word *honor* is "weighty, of great value and worth." To honor our parents is to treat them as very valuable and worthy of respect, because it is God's will to govern us by their hand. "It follows from this that we are forbidden to detract from their dignity either by contempt, by stubbornness, or by ungratefulness [Matt. 15:4-6]" (Calvin, *Institutes*, 2.8.35).

On the other hand, "when God requires parents to be honored, He at the same time demands that they so discharge the duties of parents as to be worthy of honor [Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4]" (Ursinus, 576).

Honoring parents also means to bear patiently with their weaknesses, even when they behave dishonorably (Gen. 9:18-23). This does **not** mean children have to put up with abuse. Parents who abuse their children are breaking the law, and abusing the authority God gave them.

Therefore, "if our parents spur us to transgress the law, we have a right to regard them not as parents, but as strangers who are trying to lead us away from obedience to our true Father" (Calvin, *Institutes*, 2.8.38).

Abused or abandoned children need to trust in the Lord who alone can heal their broken heart and bitterness. "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take care of me" (Psalm 27:10).

GRACE
REFORMED
CHURCH

2023

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Lord's Day 39, Sunday, September 24

WELCOME!

Sunday School – 9:00 am
Sunday Worship Service – 10:30 am
Bible Study – 6:00 pm

SEE OUR WELCOME PAGE



For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).