



# OUR VISION

## INTRODUCTION

Our vision is to “proclaim grace upon grace” to Chilliwack, British Columbia and to the ends of the earth. John 1:16-17 says, “For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”

At Grace Fellowship Chilliwack (GFC), we believe that salvation is all of grace and not of works. We believe it is something that God alone accomplishes in our lives, and nothing we contribute to ourselves. We believe it is unmerited favour, where Jesus earns the Father's approval and, in His mercy, gives us the benefits of that through His shed blood on the cross and victorious resurrection from the tomb. Since we have received all of this, it is our vision as a church to proclaim grace upon grace in several ways:

### WE PROCLAIM GRACE UPON GRACE THROUGH THE BIBLE.

Because the Bible is the revelation of God's grace, we at GFC are committed to preaching it in our pulpit and to teaching it in every aspect of our ministry. The Bible has been called the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, and the Christian's charter. It is the Word of God, the Sword of the Spirit, a lamp for our feet, and a light for our path, because it proclaims grace. It loves to talk about the unmerited favour of God and to tell people how to find it through Christ. Therefore, we love to teach the Bible as a church.

### WE PROCLAIM GRACE UPON GRACE THROUGH WORSHIP.

Because God's grace is so prevalent in the Bible, we are also committed to emphasizing it in our worship. Colossians 3:16 says, “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” We take that admonition seriously. As we hear the Word of God preached and taught, we respond to it in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

We are so thankful for all God has done for us that we cannot help but proclaim it through music and through the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

### WE PROCLAIM GRACE UPON GRACE THROUGH EVANGELISM.

Because Jesus Christ has commissioned us to proclaim His grace, it is our vision to evangelize the lost. Grace is best seen in evangelism. When you have experienced the unmerited favour of God, you cannot help but tell others about it. When you have had your sins forgiven and your iniquities pardoned, you cannot wait to tell others how to do the same. Evangelism has been described as one beggar telling another beggar how to find bread, and that is the passion of our church. We love to tell sinners about the bread of life, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. John 6:35 says, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

### WE PROCLAIM GRACE UPON GRACE THROUGH SERVICE.

Because we have received His grace, it is our vision to see every member of our church serve one another in love. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” God loves it when His people show their love in good works. He loves it when we help, bless, and minister to each other selflessly and sacrificially. God gave everything He had for us on the cross and we want to do the same thing for others in the church. He held nothing back when He saved us, and we want to hold nothing back when we give to the family of God.

### WE PROCLAIM GRACE UPON GRACE THROUGH COUNSELLING.

Because we are confident that God's grace is sufficient, it is our vision to help each other in the various challenges of life. Not only do we meet physical needs in the church, but we meet spiritual needs as well. Not only do we help people with their bodily needs,

but we also help them with the needs of their souls. Romans 15:14 says, “And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.” In other words, Christians can counsel each other in the church. The Bible gives us all we need “pertaining to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). And we believe that we can use it to help each other conquer sin and live a righteous, God-honoring life.

### WE PROCLAIM GRACE UPON GRACE THROUGH LEADERSHIP.

Because leaders are a gracious gift to the church, it is our vision that we follow their loving counsel and guidance. God's grace gives us qualified servants to “shepherd the flock of God among you” (1 Peter 5:2). The Lord provides men who are “above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money” to serve and guide His people (1 Timothy 3:1-7). It is our job as members to follow them and make their work a joy and not a burden (Hebrews 13:17). We want to acknowledge God's grace in their lives and to respond to them in a God-honoring way.

### WE PROCLAIM GRACE UPON GRACE THROUGH EQUIPPING THE SAINTS.

Because we are called to grow in the grace and knowledge of God, it is our vision to see our people equipped for the work of ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12 says, “And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.” This is what it all boils down to: God wants us to be involved in His church. This is where it all leads: He wants us equipped to serve His people. We are saved by grace in order to work (Ephesians 2:8-10). We are forgiven and pardoned and given new life in Christ so that we might go out and minister to others in a lost and dying world.