



Will & Grace



Wesleyan Theology of Grace

July 21, 2019

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1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived...,
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5
even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together
with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and
seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages
to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness
toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— 9 not the result of works,
so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in
Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of
life. (Ephesians 2:1, 2, 4-10)

To candid, reasonable men, I'm not afraid to lay open what have been the inmost thoughts of my heart. I have thought, I'm a creature of a day, passing through life as an arrow through the air. I am a spirit come from God, and returning to God: Just hovering over the great gulf; til a few moments hence, I am no more seen; I drop into an unchangeable eternity. I want to know one thing- the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the Book of God! (Preface to John Wesley's Fifty-Three Sermons)



My grace is all you need.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Amazing Grace

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

(John 3:16)

Wesleyan Theology of Grace:

- Prevenient Grace
- Justifying Grace
- Sanctifying Grace

Grace at work in our lives





South Broadway
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Prevenient Grace

- Latin root means “Preventing” or “Preceding”



- “God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8)

Rev. Don Underwood – “The Long View”

“I have often said that there are two kinds of people: those who are on a spiritual journey and know it, and those who are on a spiritual journey but don’t know it yet. I believe that the spiritual journey includes the quest for meaning, the search for God, and the hunger for significant relationships. That quest continues until our dying day.” (Chapter 1)

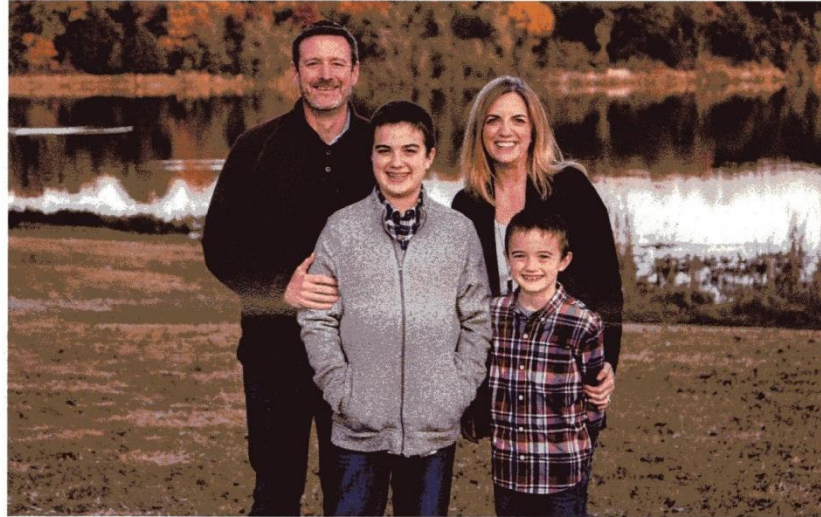


Justifying Grace – God Making Things Right

- 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26)
- “You must be born anew” (John 3:7)

Sanctifying Grace – On to Perfection

- For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
- For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. (1 Thessalonians 4:7)
- For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your God; you shall be holy, for I am holy. (Leviticus 11:45)
- Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)
- *Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.* (Philippians 3:12)



“GOING ON TO PERFECTION”

Rev. Chris Dowd

We wanted to raise our family in a tradition that emphasizes the grace embodied in the life, ministry, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. We were looking for a church that would emphasize ongoing Christian spiritual growth, what the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, called “going on to perfection.” We wanted our kids to grow up learning that an essential part of our life with God is to participate with God in acts of compassion and justice in a world that desperately needs both. These are the values that we want our church family to help us live and instill in our kids.

We couldn’t be more excited about joining a church that lives these values each day.



**To each one of us
grace has been given.**

Ephesians 4:7

“Five Means of Grace” –

Experiencing God’s Love the Wesleyan Way by Elaine Heath

1. Prayer
2. Searching the Scriptures
3. The Lord’s Supper
4. Fasting
5. Christian Conferencing

1. Prayer

- Is the essence of our relationship with God
- Is a practice of being present to God
- A daily routine
- Resources:
 - Orders of Daily Praise and Prayer
 - Revised Common Lectionary
 - “This Day: A Wesleyan Way of Prayer”, “The Upper Room”, “Faith in 50”, or “The Long View”
 - Methodist Hymnal
 - Extemporaneous or unscripted prayer

2. Searching the Scriptures

- Looking for “buried treasure”
- Make it a daily habit
- Techniques (Lectio Divina – Sacred Reading):
 - Read slowly; like it is your first time
 - Be an observer; use all five senses
 - Meditate on the text
 - Pray for insight
 - Contemplate and put your new wisdom into action

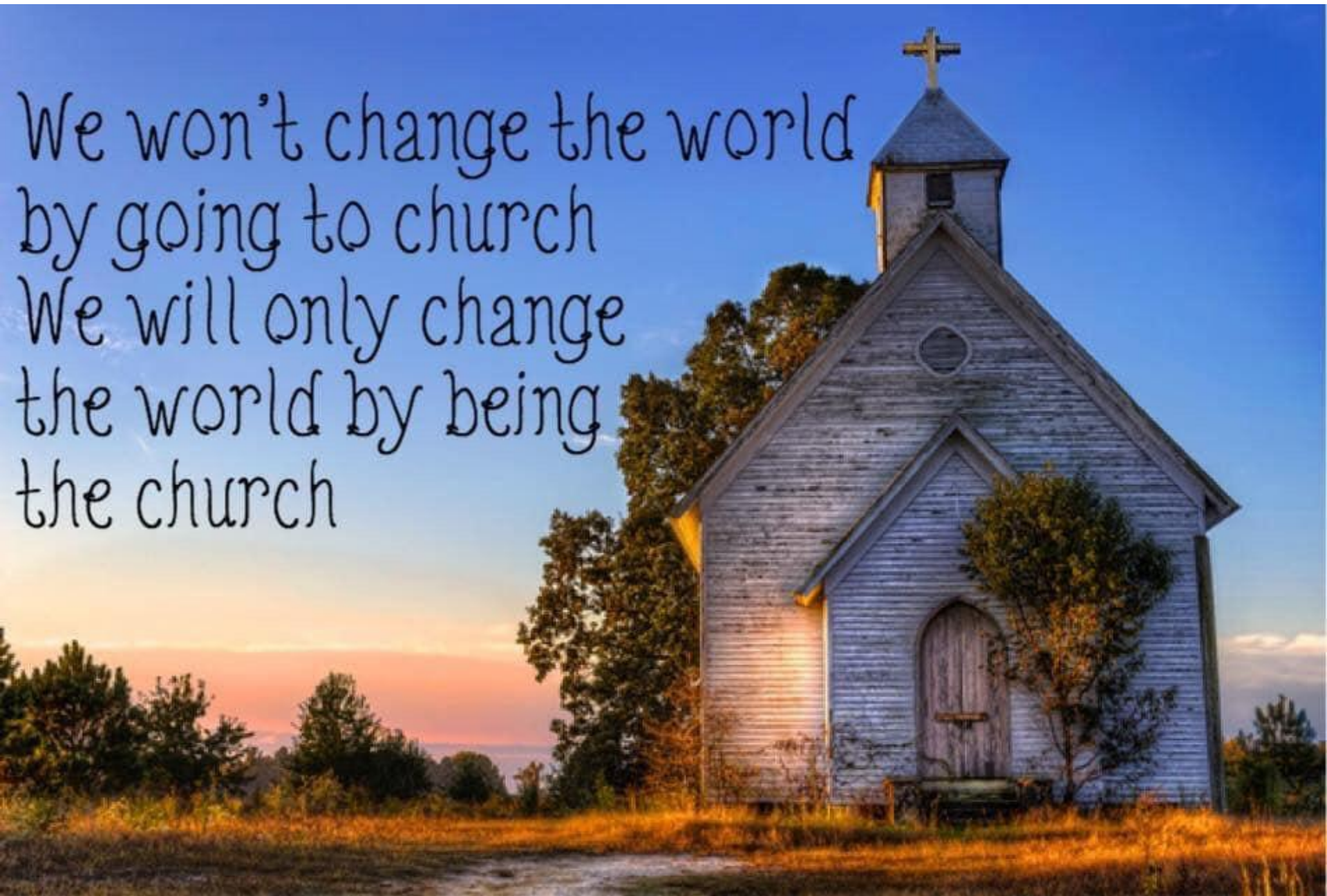
3. The Lord's Supper

- Two Methodist sacraments are closely linked; the Lord's Supper and Baptism
 - Confess and renounce our sin
 - State our intent to follow Jesus
 - Commit to live in union with Christ and his mission
- The “Open Table”
- “O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread” (#610)

4. Fasting

- Without a Godward heart, Wesley preached that fasting is only a “poor, dead, empty thing: separate from God, it is a dry leaf, a shadow.”
- Fasting prepares the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – to carry out the missional purposes of God
- Fasting is a spiritual discipline that brings us back to our vulnerability
- Fasting can be a practice of abstinence from more than food

We won't change the world
by going to church
We will only change
the world by being
the church



5. Christian Conferencing

- The Greek word for church in the New Testament is ekklesia, or “gathering.”
- “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”
(Matthew 18:20)
- Wesley started the “Holy Club” at Oxford
- Later in life he starts “Class Meetings”

Christian Conferencing – Small Groups

1. The group is gathered in the name of Jesus.
2. The practices of the group foster deep spiritual friendships that lead to growth in personal and corporate holiness and genuine community.
3. The group is engaged in missional ministry beyond itself.

Thank you!!

- Resources Utilized:

“Going on to Salvation” – a Study of Wesleyan Beliefs – by Maxie Dunnam

“Five Means of Grace” – Experience God’s Love the Wesleyan Way – by Elaine A. Heath

“Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit” – by Albert C. Outler

“John Wesley” – Holiness of Heart & Life – by Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.

“The Long View” – Reflections on Life, God, and Nature – by Rev. Don Underwood

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe>

“The United Methodist Church” – What Every Teacher Needs to Know About – by Discipleship Resources

“The Wesleyan Way” – A Faith That Matters (DVD) – by Scott J. Jones