

Pastor's Pen

Peace That Cannot Be Broken

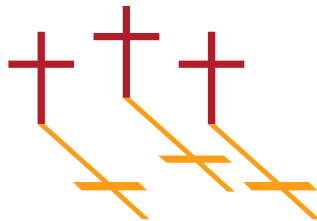
"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," Romans 5:1

A core principle in the Reformed tradition is the doctrine of justification by faith alone. Paul emphasizes this in Romans 5:1: ***"Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God..."*** This peace is not just an emotion or fleeting feeling. It is an objective, lasting reality rooted in Christ's finished work.

Before salvation, Scripture depicts us as "enemies" of God (Rom. 5:10), rather than neutral wanderers. Our sin actively rebelled against a holy God. However, through Christ's justifying work—His perfect obedience and sacrificial death—all obstacles are removed. Reformed theology stresses that this justification is not something we earn or maintain through our deeds, nor is it based on our performance. It is purely an act of God's sovereign grace.

Since we are justified, we now exist in a state of peace—fully accepted, fully reconciled, and fully secure. This peace is stable and not fragile. It doesn't rely on whether today was a good, disciplined, or spiritually victorious day. Instead, it is grounded in Christ's righteousness, which is credited to us through faith.

Believers now live under God's favor rather than His wrath. His approval rests on us, and He delights in us. Our relationship with Him remains steady and unchanged. The Judge has pronounced us righteous, a declaration that endures forever. In Reformed theology, this peace is called 'peace of status'—a permanent standing before God because Christ's righteousness covers us. From this secure position, a deeper, experiential peace arises—the tranquil assurance that God is for us, near us, loving us, and not condemning.



Imagine a man waiting anxiously for a legal verdict that will determine his future. His case is complicated, his failures are real, and he fears the judgment. After what seems like an eternity, the judge enters the courtroom, raises the gavel, and declares: "Justified. Not Guilty. Case closed. You are free." The clerk stamps the papers with a seal that cannot be altered. In that moment, the man's entire life changes—not because of what he did, but because of the verdict declared over him. From that point on, no one can reopen the case or accuse him again.

This is what justification provides for the believer. God has declared through Christ that the case against us is closed. The verdict is righteousness, and it is permanent. The result is peace with God. Romans 5:1 encourages us to rest—not in ourselves, but in Christ. We do not strive to achieve peace with God; we stand in it. We do not beg for favor; we already have it. Only through faith, by grace, and in Christ has God moved us from hostility to harmony, from judgment to joy. Today, live confidently in this truth: the peace with God you possess is as steady and unshakeable as the One who gave it.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The doctrine of justification by faith alone is the doctrine upon which the church stands or falls, because it is the only ground on which sinners can stand before a holy God."

—R.C. Sproul

Grace Gems

There are few things at which people enact greater farces!

"Then Jesus said to His disciples: If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me!" Matthew 16:24

There are few things at which people enact greater farces, than in their feeble and foolish efforts at self-denial. Very few seem to have the remotest conception of what self-denial is! One does without meat on Fridays, eating fish instead—and thinks that he has denied himself in a most commendable way. Another gives up candy or a certain amusement for forty days in Lent, and is proud of his great self-denial. Others make themselves miserable in various ways: inflicting pain, making useless and uncalled-for sacrifices—as if God were somehow pleased when they suffer!

But none of these things constitute self-denial. There is no merit or virtue in . . . giving up anything, suffering any loss or pain, or making any sacrifice, merely for its own sake.

True self-denial is the renouncing of SELF—and the yielding of the whole life to the will of Christ. It is SELF—coming down from the heart's throne, laying crown and scepter at the Master's feet—and thenceforth submitting the whole life to His sway.

True self-denial is living—not to please ourselves, not to advance our own personal interests, but to please our Lord and do His work. It is denying ourselves anything which is sinful in His sight. It is the glad making of any sacrifice which loyalty to Him requires. It is the giving up of any pleasure or comfort for the good of others—which the living out of His gospel may demand. The essential thing is that SELF gives way altogether to CHRIST, as the purpose and end of life.

True self-denial, like all other traits of Christlikeness, is unconscious of itself. We deny ourselves when we follow Christ with joy and gladness, through cost and danger and suffering—wherever He leads!

-J.R. Miller

Weekly Gatherings



Sunday Bible Classes

Elders- Old Testament (Sanctuary A)
Bereans- New Testament (Sanctuary B)
Ladies- (Downstairs B, Gray Room)
Young Adults- (Downstairs B, Red Rm.)
Youth and Surge (5th-6th)- (Upstairs C)



Weekday Meetings

AWANA—Wednesday's 6:30-8:00 pm
Men's Book Study—Monday at 7pm
and Fridays at 6am



Family Groups

All Family Groups began **Sept 25th**
Host Families: Tom & Penni Cox, Jesse &
Deborah Royall, Larry & Gina Covington,
Jeff & Bridget Brown, Alan & Leigh Anne
Chambers and Mark & Trisha Keffer



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church 10:30AM
Sunday Services 10:30AM

Giving from service on 11/23/2025

General Offering	\$5,527.34
Building Fund	\$785.00
Uganda	\$140.00
Benevolence	\$95.00

Total.....\$6,547.34
Attendance 231

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Widows-admin@ghbcva.org
HH-HomeschoolHub@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

Nov 30, 2025

