

MVCF

November 2024 Newsletter



2650 Melbourne Drive San Diego CA 92123 | Phone: 858.278.2633 | www.missionvillage.church

Pastor's Pen

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." -Mark 2:17

A few weeks ago we looked at Mark 2:13-17, and explored how scandalous it was for Jesus to offer grace to people who didn't deserve it, especially when compared to the self-righteous Pharisees and religious leaders. And we explored how important it is as followers of Jesus to live in grace and then offer that grace to others. Living in grace continuously brings us back to this beautiful, life-giving truth; that in Christ, there is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and nothing we have done to make God love us less (JD Greear, *Gospel*). *When we know that we cannot earn God's love, and there is nothing we have done to lose God's love, it frees us to live lives of fruitfulness and obedience to Jesus, and then we can offer that same grace to others that we ourselves have received.*

But there is an important aspect of offering grace to others that we did not explore on that Sunday, and it is well worth taking some time to explore here, and that is the idea of not only offering grace to others, but offering grace to ourselves as well. We are easily and often our own worst enemy, and while we may offer lip service to grace and how we are saved by grace and need to live in grace and offer grace to others, when it comes to ourselves we can be harsh and judgmental and legalistic. This lack of grace towards ourselves can be fueled by family dynamics, social media, comparing ourselves to others, and any number of other factors. But the bottom line is that many of us struggle not with the idea of grace, but with the application of offering grace to ourselves. And if we cannot extend grace to ourselves, it will be much harder to extend grace to others.

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Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Adult Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Children's Bible Adventure

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Given this lack of grace, let me suggest three areas where we can begin to offer grace to ourselves: Self-criticism, self-image, and self-worth.

Self-Criticism: Failure is a part of life, and the most successful people (and successful Christians) learn from failure and grow from failure. But many of us do not allow ourselves to fail. We live with slogans like “failure is not an option.” And so we criticize ourselves for the slightest failure. We even criticize ourselves when we do not “fail” per se but fail to live up to the unrealistic expectations we set for ourselves. There is nothing wrong with setting the bar high and striving for excellence in everything that we do, but none of us will ever achieve perfection. So if perfection is your standard, and you will not allow yourself to do or be anything short of perfect, then you will struggle to offer yourself grace. Ironically, even as I write these words I realize my own propensity for self-criticism in that I wish I had explored this area of offering grace to ourselves in the sermon, and I feel bad that I didn’t do that. So self-criticism sneaks into our lives so easily.

Self-Image: When you look at yourself, or think about yourself, what comes to mind? If the answer is anything other than “I am a beautiful child of the most high God, made in his image (Genesis 1:26-27),” then you may struggle with your self-image. Instead of seeing ourselves as God sees us, we see ourselves by comparing ourselves to others, either in appearance, character, accomplishment, or all three. This is the incredible danger of social media and the entertainment industry, where beauty and success are defined in heavily edited, unrealistic terms. Offering grace to ourselves in this area means that we don’t need to let ourselves be defined by someone or something else. This is much easier said than done, but this is also where brothers and sisters in Christ and sometimes professional Christian counselors can help undo the lack of grace we have regarding our own self-image.

Self-worth: As a child of the most high God, made in his image, your life is infinitely precious. Your value is based on your identity as a child of God. Period. But our culture assigns worth based on accomplishment, appearance, financial stability, and other such things. Even Christians can (knowingly or unknowingly) assign worth based on marriage status, the number of kids you have, how well your kids are behaved, church attendance, or ministry participation. Many pastors sadly measure their own worth by “ministry success” (and here success is usually not a biblical standard of success such as spiritual growth but something like numerical growth and increased church participation). You may (knowingly or unknowingly) measure your own worth by one or more of these standards, and if that is the case it is incredibly difficult to see and believe in your own worth and value as a child of the most high God.

How do you struggle to offer yourself grace? My challenge to us this month is to identify one of these areas where you struggle to offer grace to yourself, and share this with a trusted brother or sister in Christ. Let God’s grace flow into your life. If you find that there are significant roadblocks to letting that grace into your life, come talk to me so I can help you. Given that we live in an anti-grace world, this might be a difficult process. But it is absolutely worth it to offer grace to yourself. Because if God’s grace can transform a tax collector like Levi (Mark 2:13-17), imagine what God’s grace can do in your life.

By His Grace,
Pastor Steve

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

Psalm 122:1

November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	4 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	5 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	6 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 5:00pm Picnic on the Lawn	7	8	9
10 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	11 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study Veterans Day	12 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	13 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 5:00pm Picnic on the Lawn	14	15	16
17 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	18 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	19 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	20 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 5:00pm Picnic on the Lawn	21	22	23 All Church Work Party
24 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	25 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	26 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	27 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry	28 Office closed 	29	30 Christmas Decoration Party

Small Groups:**Monday**

1:00 p.m. Afternoon
Bible Study at MVCF

6:30 p.m. Women's
Bible Study at MVCF

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
at MVCF

6:30 p.m. Prayer
Meeting
Online

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Youth Group
at MVCF

**Church Work Party
Every Fourth**

**Saturday
of the month**

**8:30 a.m. to 11:00
a.m.**
refreshment will be
provided.

**For more contact
Frank Romeo**

Precious MVCF Family,

There are simply not enough words in the English language for me to express my deepest love and appreciation for your prayers and support during Christopher's illness and death. Even when I wasn't present on Sundays, I felt your prayers deeply - and they pulled me through the darkest of times when I didn't have the words to pray myself.

I am incredibly grateful for the many many many people who made his service lovely, light, bright, delicious and full of Jesus! I could not have done anything at all without our beloved Pastor Steve, who organized everything from the dudes playing music to the people who spoke and who held me together in many ways. Thank you, Steve. I'm so very glad Christopher had your friendship and love during his last days, I hope you know how much you blessed us all. Thank you to Tony Q who handled the livestreams...so many friends and family members were able to join in and watch! (Plus it's available from now till eternity to re-watch!!) Thank you Worship team, Tony, Mike, Tony, Roger and our guest musicians - BLESS you all for your gifts which were lovingly given by you all. And thank you to the MOST wonderful Jenny and her lasagna league, Michelle and Cameron and ALL of you, who are too many to name, who brought delicious food to the reception! People came up to me all day saying how wonderful it was and you have NO idea how grateful and truthfully relieved that I just needed to show up and not worry - everything was taken care of!

This past summer was so incredibly hard for Caleb, Austin, Hannah and me, but we felt your love, enjoyed your meals and relied upon your prayers. This next season of grief is pretty hard too, and I remain so very grateful for you all.

My brothers and sisters, thank you, thank you, thank you.

With deep abiding love,
Jennifer for the French Family

**Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not
be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength
and my song; he also is become my salvation.**

~Isaiah 12:2

Bible Verses For Thanksgiving!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:6-7 - So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

1 Chronicles 16:34 - Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Hebrews 12:28 - Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

Colossians 4:2 - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Psalms 118:1 - Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!



NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Happy Birthday



Samuel Miller	11/01	Carl Jensen	11/16	Jayson Stone & Rebecca Schnarr	11/04
Briahna DeLaCruz	11/09	Scott Fiori	11/21	Steve & Joanna de Vos	11/06
Ernie Garcia	11/13	Mary Jo Cooper	11/22		

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Col. 3:12

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive

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We're on the web!

missionvillage.church

Council Members

Pastor	Steve de Vos
Moderator	Ronda Adams
Clerk	Joanna de Vos
Financial Secretary	Tony DaVee
Treasurer	June McCollough
Children's Ministry	Open
Youth Ministry	Terri Carver
Adult Ministry	Open
Stewardship	Frank Romeo
Fellowship	Jenny Fiori
Service	Carl Demas
Missions / Evangelism	Matt & Ellen Davis
Finance Ministry	Ernie Garcia
Worship	Hannah French

Sunday Schedule

Worship & Children's Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.

Nursery & Toddler Care is Available During Worship Service

Service will be live on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#)

Elders

Pastor /Elder.....Steve de Vos
Administrative ElderTony DaVee
Elder..... Carl Jensen

Staff

Administrative Assistant.....Judy Yacob
Nursery Attendant.....Hannah French