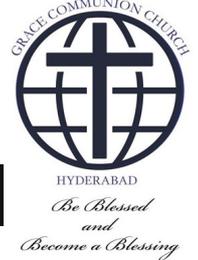


GCC CLOSE UP



GRACE COMMUNION CHURCH, HYDERABAD

JULY 2018

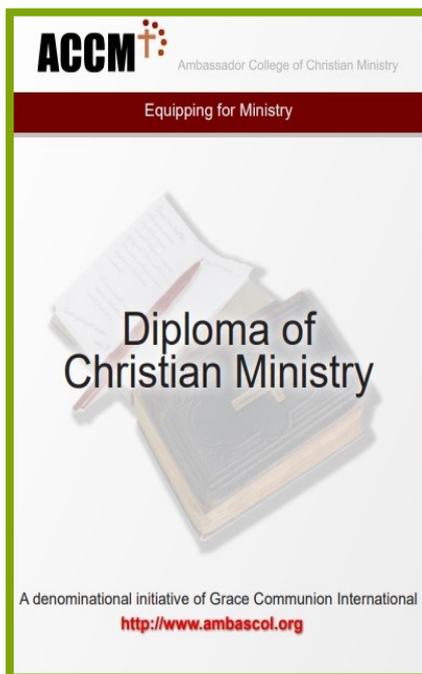
Church Elders Introduced to Trinitarian Faith



Leaders and elders of various churches attended sessions on Trinitarian Faith at the Ashirward Global Learning Centre in Hyderabad (photo left). Pastor Dan introduced the subject by doing an exposition on John 3:16 and answering the question “Who is God.?” Our theological foundation must begin by putting that question in place. Pastor Dan said that must come first before we can go to questions such as “what must I do to have a relationship with God.” A

question like that can be better answered when we know who is the God we worship and seek to have a relationship with. Sessions were also held in Pastoral Care and how Christ seeks His ministers to “feed my sheep.”

Pastoral Care Intensive Sessions



‘Ambassador College of Christian Ministry’ is a denominational initiative of Grace Communion International to equip members and leaders of GCI congregations in Christian service and ministry. It also gives an opportunity for spiritual growth, helps better understand God’s Word and know the Triune God more deeply. It helps in a disciplined study of the Bible.

Intensive Sessions were conducted for members of Grace Communion Church in Hyderabad on the subject of Pastoral Care. Sessions included the Theology of Pastoral Care, Life of Christ and the Spirit in the Church, Caring and Nurturing, Church Life, Mission and Outreach and Self Care. Topics that were also covered under these main headings included Gifts of the Spirit, Legalism, Women in Ministry, Leading Meetings and Groups, Depression and Suicide, Dying and Grief, Addictions, Inclusive Missions, Abuse, etc.

Twenty one participants attended from GCC and other organizations. Participants expressed their gratitude towards this initiative. David D’Silva commented: “Feed My Sheep” is really Biblical and practical theme in this contemporary world. We are blessed by the meeting.” Participants could take more courses online either for credit or for audit.

Supervision of Christian Counsellors



'Person to Person', Institute for Christian Counselling holds supervision meetings for Christian Counsellors once every month in Hyderabad. Counsellors get together to present cases to receive and provide feedback that helps develop best practices in counselling skills.

Pastor Dan serves as supervisor for counsellors and provides continuing professional development sessions towards the end of each session.

Discussions in the July meeting centered around the Imprecatory Psalms where God allows the recording of extremely hostile

feelings of His prophets and servants towards those who were considered inimical. Was it right for such feelings to be expressed.? How would this have implications in counselling.? While it is necessary to understand the existential reality of such thoughts due to the depravity of humans because of the fall, God certainly wanted an authentic record of the result of that fall to help address it in the light of His love. Rather than rescuing counselees from their feelings, Counsellors must give them permission to vent such feelings so as to help them reflect upon such dark feelings and then steer them toward appropriate steps that will help bring healing and reconciliation.

Pastoral Team Visits Mumbai Congregation



Mumbai, a city that houses eighteen million (plus) people, continues to be a home to a small fellowship group for Grace Communion. They gathered under lead pastor Dan Zachariah on July 29 for fellowship and worship. Clement Sandri, the Secretary of GCC, joined Pastor Dan in meeting with the members. A group of ten met in the Mathews' home and Benny Mathews led in prayer and worship. Pastor Dan updated them about activities of the church and discussed about healthy

churches. He led them in a communion service after that. This was followed by a delicious meal and lively fellowship.

GROWING IN GRACE

BIBLICAL INSIGHTS FOR LIFE

JULY 2018

WHY DOES GOD OPPOSE THE PROUD.?

“... God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6). In several passages the Bible takes a strong view on the subject of pride. Notice two in the book of Proverbs: “Everyone who is arrogant in the heart is an abomination to the Lord” (16:5); “By insolence comes nothing but strife ...” (13:10). Prov. 16:16-17 goes on to say that God hates “haughty eyes” – a reference to a prideful attitude and again regards it as an abomination.

To understand why God hates pride, we need to see what it does to the person who is proud. There are two disastrous consequences of a prideful attitude.

LOOKING DOWN ON OTHERS: First of all, it makes one feel superior to others and makes him or her to look down and belittle them. Instead of loving and being kind and compassionate, a person filled with pride is constantly finding fault with others. This fault-finding attitude reinforces one’s feeling of superiority and some become so comfortable in this frame of mind that they even find their identity in it! A fault-finding attitude degenerates into bitterness toward others and causes the person to become judgemental. Needless to say, this dynamic only brings strife and contention, as Proverbs 13:10 warns. Relationships are severely damaged and have no opportunity to mend as long as the attitude of pride dominates.

INDEPENDENCE FROM GOD: An even more unfortunate fall-out of pride is the attitude that one has no need for God. Pride fills the mind with one’s own exaggerated sense of abilities and importance that even God comes a distant second in comparison to them. Lucifer is a classic example of this. The prince of Tyre was a type of Lucifer’s folly and notice what the prophet Ezekiel says in chapter 28: “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord God: Because your heart is proud and you have said, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,’ yet you are but a man, and no god, though you make your heart like the heart of a god ...” (v.2). The prophet then applies this to the real source of this problem, who was Lucifer: “You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you ...” (v.15). That unrighteousness was nothing more but the pride of self-righteousness and self-sufficiency which infected Adam and Eve. In short, pride makes one to occupy God’s chair – and that is no place for a human.!

WHY GOD HATES PRIDE: Notice those consequences above – you will begin to see that pride alienates one from God and from others. This is a direct violation of the greatest of the commands, which is to love God and to love neighbour (Matt 22:37-40). It’s a negation and denial of everything that God is and what He stands for - love. The damage that a person with pride suffers is against the very intrinsic nature of God, which destroys the person from within. God’s hatred for pride is not that He is against humans but what it does to them. God desires that we allow Him to be our God and live with our fellow human beings in love and harmony. This can only come from humility.

Dan Zachariah

DEALING WITH NARCISSISM

Being prideful could result from a condition called Narcissism. The term is taken from Greek mythology, where it is said that the Greek god Narcissus fell in love with his own image when he noticed it reflected in a pool of water. In some extreme cases, narcissism can even become a well-recognized psychiatric condition. Sadly, the self-admiring Greek god is very much alive today in millions of humans. This article will explore ways on how to deal with narcissists.

Narcissists believe that the world should revolve around them. Therefore, they get easily offended and accuse the other person of being “selfish.” They believe that the world exists only for their benefit, focussing on anything else by you is taken as an affront. They can get incredibly fierce and cruel during arguments.

They fully believe that they are always one hundred percent right and the other person is one hundred percent wrong. Therefore, they will never admit that they could be at fault. There is no point in telling them “facts” or “reasons” because they are sure that you are telling them pure lies and may resort to attacking you even more.

So the only way to deal with narcissists is to stop arguing with them. Just move on – no other solution may be possible. Sometimes, breaking off and being free from them is the only option. But in some instances you may not be able to avoid them totally. For example, a toxic colleague at work or a toxic family member at home. So remember, arguments can prove futile and only escalate into ugly fights.

Narcissists will continue to believe that you have hurt them severely and ruined their lives by whatever they think you did. They will continue to throw everything at you with their imagined hurts, even from years gone by. They will continue to blame that it is you who is acting selfishly. How would you deal with such a situation.? Just keep calm.! “A wise man ignores an insult” (Prov. 12:16).

At present, there does not seem to be any medication for clinical conditions to treat this. Counselling may be of some help, but it will be very difficult to make progress since the patient believes that he is fully right and all others, including the doctor, is fully wrong.

Is there any help for the Narcissists.? One sure hope for them is to believe and obey the command “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Dr. Sudhir Singh

MISSION STATEMENT: GCC CLOSE UP is published by Grace Communion Church in Hyderabad, India to provide news of church activities and to stimulate Christian growth through Biblically insightful articles.

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