



River of Grace

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:1-4

God's River of Grace

The grace of God flows from His throne to us freely and abundantly. It is His passion to love us and restore us to great relationship with Him.

There is nothing His GRACE cannot cover.

And yet, we struggle trying to understand just how completely this grace surrounds us. We often think that our sins have been too great or the damage we have done can never be restored. Sometimes we have a sense that we should do more or be better in our Christian walk. The sense that if we were more consistent with our devotions or better at leading our families to follow God, God would be more pleased with us.

But nothing is further from the truth.

We cannot change our standing with God either good or bad! And we are THANKFUL!

Paul says that we should take what we know of this grace, this fellowship that God has created with us and share it with our community! And the more we begin to grasp how complete, how total the love and grace of God is, the more we have to share with those around us.

So the question to you today is, do you build dams to stop the flow? Ask God to show you where you have built dams and how you can begin to remove them. It would thrill Him to help you destroy these barriers!

What are you doing February 25 & 26?

February 25 & 26 is our Community Weekend, when we intentionally spend time focusing on relationships and living in community!



On that weekend, we will invest in community in a couple of ways:

1

First, we're taking time on Sunday, February 26 to build into our church family community as we have one service all together for sharing, the Lord's Table, and worship together. Following the service, we'll have a potluck lunch together (bring a main course **and** a dessert or salad).

2

Second, we want to encourage you to build into your local community – the place where you “live”. The idea is that we BLESS the people in our lives who are not a part of our church family. This might mean doing a random act of kindness for a neighbor or hosting a dinner for friends or something else entirely. We hope that you'll find some creative way to bless the community that is a part of your life outside of church and have fun doing it!

We look forward to hearing your stories of how God is building the communities you are a part of, here at Lakewood, and in the rest of your life!!

Other follow up ideas:

*Take some time this week to notice those around you. Do you know your neighbours? Is there a way that you can connect with them on a new level? How about the families that sit around you during the service? Take some time to talk to them. Sometimes we assume because someone has been attending for a while that they feel connected. Why not go out of your way to make sure?

*If you have children, you know that they generally connect easily with others and enjoy making new friends. So give them the opportunity and yourself the chance to reach out. You may have to intentionally carve out some time once a month but it will be worth it. Modeling this care for others around you will speak more for your children than any devotional. It will become a way of life. But it takes baby steps to start sometimes.

*Prayerfully ask God to show you where your dams are. We all have them. Do you find it hard to believe that God loves you in spite of your failures? Do you understand that while spiritual disciplines build into us and our relationship with God, doing them does not make you any more right with God than not doing them? Your standing with God remains the same once you are saved. He loves you with a passionate love and Jesus' payment for you is complete. So rather than feeling like a failure or that you **MUST** spend time doing “blank”, ask God to show you where you can build relationship with Him. He is faithful and will show you. And treasure the moments you have together.