

June 17, 2012

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Of Princeton, New Jersey

Jesus Christ

For by Him were all things created,
that are in heaven, and that are in earth,
visible and invisible ...

And He is before all things,
and by Him all things consist.
- Colossians 1:16-17

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class
11:00 AM Morning Service
Thursday: 7:30 PM Mid-week Service

WEB ADDRESS

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles and audio messages:
www.FreeGraceMedia.com

WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION

Rocky Hill Firehouse, 2nd floor
150 Washington Street
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

MAILING ADDRESS

7 Birch Street
Pennington, NJ 08534

Phone: 615-513-4464 | Email: clay@freegracemedia.com

The witness of the senses only confuses those who would walk by faith.

Charles Spurgeon

TWO NATURES

The eternally begotten Son of God necessarily from eternity possesses the divine nature – that of His Father. When the Son of God in His incarnation became Son of Man, He received the human nature (but not its Adamic sin). He did not cease to be the Son of God. Nor did He become devoid of the divine nature. Nor was the divine nature changed into the human nature. Rather, He remained one person but now had two natures: the divine nature as the Son of God, and the human nature as the Son of Man.

Likewise, naturally begotten sons of men necessarily from birth possess the human nature – that of their fathers. When sons of men in their regeneration become sons of God, they receive the divine nature (but not its essential deity). They do not cease to be sons of men. Nor do they become devoid of the human nature. Nor is the human nature changed into the divine nature. Rather, they remain one person but now have two natures: the human nature as sons of men, and the divine nature as sons of God.

This is the state of all who have become “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4). They now have within their one person two natures: both “the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” and “the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:22, 24). These two natures in man are in constant conflict with each other (Romans 7:15-25) – for the old nature can do nothing but sin, and the new nature can do nothing but righteousness. But the child of God delights in knowing that in the sight of God “Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed [the divine nature] remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God” (1John 3:9).

- Daniel Parks

GIVING ALL DILIGENCE

2 Peter 1: 5-15

By the power of God through the knowledge and righteousness of God our Savior Christ Jesus the believer has been born again and given all things that pertain to life and godliness: faith, grace, peace, exceeding great and precious promises. (Heb 10: 15-17; 2 Cor 5: 21; Col 1:21-22; Eph 2: 19; Ro 8: 28; Is 33: 16; Jn 6: 54; Ro 8: 17-18; 1 Jn 3: 2; 1 Cor 15: 52-57; Rev 3: 21; 2 Cor 1: 20) Christ has been formed in us by the Holy Spirit making us partakers of the divine nature, delivered from the corruption that is in the world through lusts, translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God's Son. (2 Pet 1: 1-4) "And beside this, giving all diligence add to your faith..." (2 Pet 1: 5-7)

Add Virtue

God given virtue is inward grace which causes the child of God to seek to "adorn the doctrine of God in all things." (Tit 2: 10; Is 43: 21) Natural man's moral virtue is of man and changes like fads from generation to generation, place to place. (Jam 3: 15) God grown virtue is the unchanging fruit of the Spirit given and grown through God's gospel and grace. (Jam 1: 17; Phil 4: 8)

Add Knowledge

Knowledge is found in Christ and taught us by Christ (Col 2: 3; 2 Pet 3: 8) If you are risen with Christ then set your affection on Christ above, not on things of this earth. (Col 3: 1-4) Seek Christ, the fountain from whom grace and knowledge are freely given. (Heb 11: 6) "Of his fullness have we all received grace for grace." (Jn 1: 16)

Add Temperance

By the indwelling of the Spirit of God the sinful nature no longer rules. (Ro 6: 14) But though our fleshly lusts do not reign there is still in every born again child of God a warfare between the old man and the new. (Ro 7: 15-25; Gal 5: 17) Put off the old man with his deeds by sowing to the Spirit, not the flesh. (Gal 5: 16; 6: 8; Eph 2: 22-24) We have liberty but not liberty to cause our brethren to stumble. Seek the other's welfare over our own belly. (1 Co 6: 12; 10: 23)

Add Patience

Patience of the Spirit is more than the ability to stay calm in a traffic jam. It is patience to wait on God, enduring hardness, continuing in faith rather than taking the path of least resistance. The stony ground hearer “receives the word with gladness, but has no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended.” (Mt 13: 21) Only God can give the increase. God promises, “I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground.” “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. (Jam 5: 7-8; Ro 8: 25; Jam 1: 2-4, 12)

Add Godliness

Godliness is fear, reverence, delight, and singleness of heart toward the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ justified his elect and made us the righteousness of God by becoming the least. Let this mind be in you. (Php 2: 5-11) The more we realize how truly Christ Jesus is ever present in the midst of his people and able to work in each of his children “both to will and to do his good pleasure” then the more we learn to be content, thankful, submitting and casting all care into his hands with fear and trembling as we work out even our most mundane daily business together (Php 2:12-13)

Add Brotherly Kindness and Love

The love of God created in the divine nature of the believer is after the same nature as the love of God. God loved his children without any cause in us and put away our sin (1 Jn 4: 10-11) Growing in brotherly love is growing to love without looking for a cause in our brother while overlooking and covering our brother’s weaknesses and flaws. (1 Co 13: 4-8) The more we learn the truth that God loved us when we were enemies, the more charitable we will be to those who are yet enemies in their minds.

Fruitful in Christ

“If these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Pet 1: 8) God ministered grace to us when he chose us and became our Surety from eternity, when he came and fulfilled the law and redeemed us from all iniquity by his own blood, when he sent the gospel and Spirit to us in truth making us alive forevermore and gave us these graces. Our Head ministers to us so that these graces increase with the increase of God. (Col 2: 19) His grace makes us give all diligence. (2 Pet 1: 12-13)