

GIVING

03.22.26

General Offering	\$7,305.37
Building Fund	\$708.27
Uganda	\$160.00
Benevolence	\$30.00
Total	\$8,203.64
Attendance	213

“The Bible is stunningly honest about the sins of God’s people. God does not hide their failures, because His purpose is not to display their virtue but His mercy.”
- John Piper



VISITORS + MEMBERS
For ALL church announcements, our church calendar, ministries for serving and small groups to join, please see our Church Center app.



Welcome to
Grace Harvest
Bible Church

03.29.26

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES

9:00am

Elders- 1 Samuel
Sanctuary A

Bereans- Luke
Upstairs C

Young Adults- 1 Corinthians
Downstairs B, Gray Room

Surge (5th & 6th)
Upstairs C

Youth (7th - 12th)
Basement A

Children’s SS
(Birth-4th)
Downstairs C

SUNDAY SERVICES

10:30am

Worship Service

Children's Church
(Birth-4th)

WEEKDAY EVENTS

Trail Life
Mondays 6:30pm

Men’s Book Study
Mondays 7pm/Fridays 6am

Women’s Book Study
Mondays 7:00pm

Worship Team Practice
Tuesdays 7:00pm

Awana
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Surge (5th & 6th)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Youth (7th - 12th)
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Men’s Alliance
Wednesdays 7:00pm

Family Groups
Every other Thursday
9:00am, 6:30pm, & 7:00pm

Pastor's Pen

God's Design, God's Patience

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother, and cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." — Genesis 2:24

One question that often arises when we read the Old Testament is this: Why did God allow men like Abraham and Jacob to have more than one wife? At first glance, it can feel like God changed His standards—or worse, that He approved of something He later condemns. But a closer look at Scripture shows something far richer: God's design never changed, but His patience met humanity in its brokenness.

From the beginning, God established His pattern for marriage—one man and one woman, joined in covenant faithfulness. This was not a cultural accident; it was a divine intention. Jesus later affirmed this same design, pointing back to creation as God's enduring standard (Matt. 19:4–6).

So why polygamy in the Old Testament? The answer is not that God endorsed it—but that He tolerated it. Scripture often shows God working within fallen systems without approving of them. Just as He permitted divorce **"because of hardness of heart"** (Matt. 19:8), He allowed polygamy in cultures already shaped by sin, brokenness, and survival-driven values. His grace met people where they were, even when they were far from where they should have been.

Notice this: the Bible consistently depicts polygamy negatively. Each story related to it involves sorrow—jealousy between Sarah and Hagar, rivalry between Leah and Rachel, chaos within David's family, and spiritual decline in Solomon's life. These aren't endorsements but cautionary tales. Scripture teaches through both commands and the outcomes that follow.

Here is the deeper truth: God's grace is not the same as God's approval. He blessed Abraham and Jacob not because their family structures were ideal, but because His covenant faithfulness is stronger than human failure. God often works in spite of our sin, not because of it.

By the time we reach the New Testament, God's design stands crystal clear. Church leaders are called to be faithful to one spouse. Marriage is lifted as a picture of Christ's exclusive, covenant love for His church (Eph. 5:25–32). Redemption doesn't invent something new—it restores what was always meant to be.

God is both holy and patient. He never lowers His standard, yet He walks patiently with flawed people on the road toward restoration. That should humble us—and encourage us. If God could work through broken families in Genesis, He can work through imperfect lives today.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

There, in the Solitudes of That Voiceless Ocean- John MacDuff,
"God's Words of Comfort to His People," 1872

"You will trample our sins under Your feet, and throw them into the depths of the ocean!"— Micah 7:19

The picture here is of an ocean, not near the shore, but far beyond sight of land, in the midst of a wide wilderness of waters, the illimitable horizon stretching on every side; and when the sounding line is let down, it cannot fathom the depth, or reach the bottom!

There, in the solitudes of that voiceless ocean, a plunge is heard! The surface is ruffled only for a moment; then the waves resume their usual calmness. The load, whatever it is, is never more seen. It is buried somewhere in these dark caverns! No spirit of the deep can ever come up from the silent caves to tell its story! Ships cross and recross where it fell, but no distinguishing marker is left on the unstable highway, to mark the spot. The sea can be tempted by no bribe, to give up the secret of its keeping, all trace is lost from sight and memory forever!

That is a picture of what God does for all His redeemed people!

"You will trample our sins under Your feet, and throw them into the depths of the ocean!"

