

# Pastor's Pen

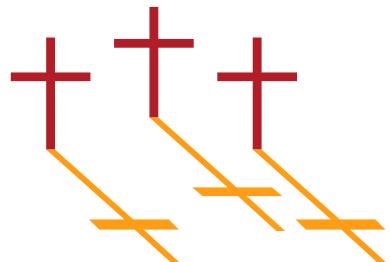
Leave and Cleave!

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

From the outset, God established marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman. The command to leave and cleave holds both relational and spiritual importance. Leaving does not mean rejecting or abandoning your biological family; rather, it means acknowledging that your primary loyalty now belongs to your spouse. By doing so, you create a new, God-focused family unit that becomes the priority in your life.

To cleave means to remain strongly bonded to your spouse in love, devotion, and unity. Marriage extends beyond just a physical connection; it encompasses emotional, relational, and spiritual dimensions. When partners cleave to each other, they imitate Christ's sacrificial and devoted love for His church. By leaving and cleaving, couples form a covenant of oneness—"one flesh"—symbolizing unity of heart, purpose, and destiny. This bond makes spouses each other's closest companion, confidant, and supporter, creating a primary human relationship that God designed and blessed.

Husbands, marriage calls you to lead with love and humility. Ephesians 5:25 urges husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church—sacrificially and selflessly. This involves being spiritually present: pray with and for your wife, read Scripture together, and prioritize growing in faith together. Patience and understanding are vital, as marriage is a journey of listening, forgiving, and supporting each other in love (Colossians 3:13). Honest and open communication builds intimacy and trust. Respecting and honoring your wife in all aspects of life aligns with God's plan and blessing for your marriage.



Wives, marriage is a partnership based on respect, love, and grace. Ephesians 5:33 underscores the importance of respecting your husband while supporting his leadership in a Christ-centered household. Developing a gentle and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4) showcases inner beauty rooted in faith, not passivity. Praying for your husband's spiritual growth, protection, and wisdom is essential for strengthening both your relationship and your walk with God. Loving, patient communication encourages mutual understanding, and fostering growth—spiritual, emotional, and relational—creates a home that reflects Christ's love for His church.

Your shepherd, Pastor Mark

## Grace Gems

When God Laughs –Charles Spurgeon

**"The One enthroned in Heaven laughs; the Lord ridicules them!"** Psalm 2:4

Note God's derision of the rebellious! What will the King do unto those who reject Him? Mark the quiet dignity of the Omnipotent One, and the contempt which He pours upon His raging enemies. He has not taken the trouble to rise up and do battle with them, He despises them, He knows how absurd, how irrational, how futile are their attempts against Him. He therefore laughs at them! (Charles Spurgeon)

**"The One enthroned in Heaven..."** Hereby it is clearly intimated,

- (1) that the Lord is far above all their malice and power;
- (2) that He sees all their plots, looking down on all;
- (3) that He is of omnipotent power, and so can do with His enemies just as He desires.

"Our God is in the heavens! He has done whatever He has pleased." (Arthur Jackson)

Sinners' follies are the righteous sport of God's infinite wisdom and power. Those attempts of the kingdom of Satan, which in our eyes are formidable—in God's eyes are despicable. (Matthew Henry)

**"The One enthroned in heaven laughs".** They scoff at us, but God laughs at them! Laugh? This seems like a harsh word at first view. But are the derision, the persecution and the injuries of His saints; and the cruelties of their enemies—a matter of laughter? God laughs, but it is in scorn. He scorns, but it is with vengeance. Short is the joy of the wicked! Oh, what are God's frowns—if His smiles are so terrible! (Thomas Adams)

The expression, **"The One enthroned in Heaven"**, at once fixes our thoughts on a being infinitely exalted above impotent man. And when it is said, "He laughs," this is designed to convey to our minds the idea that the greatest confederacies among kings and peoples, and their most extensive and vigorous preparations to defeat His purposes—are in His sight altogether insignificant and worthless! He looks upon their poor and puny efforts—not only without uneasiness or fear, but He laughs at their folly! He treats their impotency with derision. He knows how He can crush them like a moth when He pleases; or consume them in a moment with the breath of His mouth! How profitable it is for us to be reminded of truths such as these! Ah! it is indeed a vain thing for the potsherds of the earth to strive with the glorious Majesty of Heaven! (David Pitcairn)

### Quote of the Week

**"The bond of marriage is a holy ordinance of God, by which two souls are united in love, companionship, and mutual care, to live according to His Word and glorify Him in all things."**

- John Knox

**"I Myself will laugh when disaster strikes you, I will mock when what you dread comes, when what you dread comes like a whirlwind, and disaster strikes you like a devastating storm, when distressing trouble comes on you!"**

Proverbs 1:26-27

# Weekly Gatherings

## Sunday Bible Classes

Elders- Old Testament (Sanctuary A)  
Bereans- New Testament (Sanctuary B)  
Young Adults- (Downstairs B, Red Rm.)  
Youth and Surge (5th-6th)- (Upstairs C)  
Children & Nursery (Downstairs C )



## Weekday Meetings

AWANA—Wednesday's 6:30-8:00 pm  
Trail Life—Monday's at 6:30 pm



## Family Groups

All Family Groups began **Sept 25th**  
**Host Families:** Tom & Penni Cox, Jesse & Deborah Royall, Larry & Gina Covington, Jeff & Bridget Brown, Alan & Leigh Anne Chambers and Mark & Trisha Keffer



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and need to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study & Surge!



## Service Times

Sunday School 9:00AM  
Children's Church 10:30AM  
Sunday Services 10:30AM



Giving from service on 01/11/2025

General Offering .....	\$12,865.61
Building Fund .....	\$1,110.00
Uganda .....	\$150.00
Benevolence .....	\$330.00
 Total.....	\$20,180.06
Attendance .....	238

## Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
Widows-admin@ghbcva.org  
HH-HomeschoolHub@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH  
GO GATHER GROW GO

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# Grace Harvest Bible Church

Jan 18, 2026

