

*December 4, 2020*

Grace Church Family,

Greetings to you and your household as you love, honor, and obey our Lord Jesus Christ. These are challenging times. 2020 has been brutally life-altering, stretching us all beyond our presumed breaking points. Yet, God is so good to us. He has blessed and strengthened us in many ways. There have been frustrations, but God has brought about some amazing things as He saves and sanctifies.

We have consistently made decisions asking "What would glorify God most?", "What does His Word require of us?", and "How can we wisely and lovingly shepherd this flock?" Psalm 138:2 says, "You have exalted above all things your name and word". God wants your leaders at Grace to lead with integrity and clarity, shepherding the whole flock, not in the fear of man, but trusting Him.

Many of you are in different places in your understanding and opinions of COVID-time. Some want us to do more, and some less, as it relates to current church activities. We are committed to be and do what the church is called to be and do, to lead and teach you, whatever your convictions and comfort levels, to obey the Lord, with a clear conscience, knowing God's glory and His Word stand above it all.

We must operate as a Biblical church no matter the challenge. Our need for accountable fellowship and growth is crucial. We must choose unity and show utmost love for all, knowing the church is not bound to a building or meeting at certain hours. So, be flexible! Connect with one another! Be a contributor, not a complainer! Sacrificially serve Jesus! Reach out to someone who is hurting! Make a new friend! Let's keep doing what we are called to do together no matter the circumstance.

Above all, we must magnify God for His mercy to us in sending the sovereign Savior to save our souls. As we dive into our Christmas series, "Magnify", in Luke 1:26-38, we see God's grace as Mary receives the life-altering announcement from Gabriel that she will be the mother of the Messiah. An amazing story of grace and glory as Mary magnifies the coming King.

Will you join me this Christmas in magnifying Jesus?

Grace,

Mike