

## **Exactly what is a high grace church?**

What does a high grace church look like?

We all make mistakes -in fact we have all made some really grand mistakes. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, these sins - no matter how many - are all forgiven. It is with this fact tucked away in our conscious recall that we become a more grace filled people. Inversely, it is one when we begin to believe that we are better than we really are that we begin to be less gracious toward others.

Once we begin to believe that our good works earn us extra favor before God, judgmentalism and legalism will soon follow. It's when we understand that the ground is completely level at the cross - that all people stand equally in need of God's saving grace - that we become a grace filled people. Once grace and love exit a church, legalism and the resultant judgmentalism will soon follow.

So what does a high grace church look like? It means being people who understand the failures of others because we are aware of our own failures. It means being people who don't get emotionally out of joint when things don't go perfectly in the church. When the soprano misses a note - or when the sound system hick-ups - or when someone sitting next to us maybe doesn't smell very "fresh ". It means loving others enough to forgo your own preferences related to church for the sake of helping an unbelieving seeker come to faith in Christ - or for the sake of helping a brand-new believer grow in their faith. That is selfless love. That is grace filled love.

Not only does this make a Fellowship a more loving place - it also pays some huge personal dividends. The Bible says that by whatsoever measure you use to judge another will be used on you. The quickest way to find grace in the eyes of others is to extend grace yourself. And the quickest way to find yourself being judged by others is to judge others yourself. This is an incontrovertible law of God that He has put in place to help us learn by observing the cause and effect of being either a grace filled or judgmental. So to sum all of this up in modern vernacular, we try not to be wrapped so tightly.

Jesus says in the Bible that people will know that we are His by the love we have for each other - and true love is always grace filled.

We sincerely hope this is your experience at Calvary Chapel.