



June 3, 2020

No one could foresee six months ago how timely the current sermon series on being the church would become. Navigating Grace Point through the COVID pandemic became an object lesson that the church is not a building. Church is where God's people join together, even if it is just two or three, to represent Christ and to do His will on earth.

We are still navigating uncharted waters as the Leadership of Grace Point is diligently working on a relaunch strategy within the government guidelines for places of worship. We don't take the responsibility for the health and safety of every person who will enter our building lightly. As we are carefully planning our next steps, we ask you for patience and your continued support as we all practice what we have heard: to bear with one another in love, let love triumph over self-interests.

Our sermon series also proved timely in light of the uprisings south of our border after the death of George Floyd. The issue of racism and prejudice is real and relevant for us here in Canada, in our city and for Grace Point as we are called to represent Christ. Racism and cultural prejudices do not just go away because we are Christians. In fact, we discovered that Christianity has struggled with issues of race and prejudice right from its start. Just think about Peter and his struggle to accept Gentiles as being included in God's church. Or how Paul had to address the same underlying issue in the church in Rome.

Any form of racism, discrimination and prejudice grieves God who created every single person. He rejoices in variety and has sacrificed His son to tear down walls of separation and form His kingdom from people of every language, race and nation. Grace Point is called to live out God's plan to the extent that it challenges people watching from the outside that they can easily acknowledge: See how they love each other! This is not accomplished by legislation or imposed ways of action. It starts with us taking inventory of our own often deep-seated attitudes and thoughts. And then we need to practice what Christ has taught us to do: confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

- Confession acknowledges the fact that I do harbour prejudices in my mind so that I bring them out to light!
- Repentance displays my admission that these thoughts and attitudes are wrong in light of God's plan in Christ and that I want to change my way of thinking.
- Forgiveness means owning up to my thoughts and actions by reaching out to those I have hurt.

As we pray for justice to prevail, let us strive together to be the kind of people who honour God by practicing His love towards everyone.

Grace Point Church Leadership