

# Today's Message

**God the Father**  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
*Doctrine Matters*  
May 1, 2011

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### III. The Father is the \_\_\_\_\_

A. It is the Father's joy to \_\_\_\_\_ His work with the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

B. It is the Father's joy to \_\_\_\_\_ His work with \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. The Father is the \_\_\_\_\_

A. The Father is the giver of all \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Jam. 1:17, 1 Tim. 4:4-5)

B. The Father gives the \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ephesians 1:7)

C. The Father gives the \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ephesians 1:13-14)

### God the Father

*God the Father is the Author of creation and redemption. His plans and purposes are sure and cannot be thwarted and He works all things together for good to those who love Him. In His incomprehensible grace, He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for humankind's redemption.*

### I. The Father is the \_\_\_\_\_

A. The Father gets \_\_\_\_\_ every time. (Eph. 1:3, 4:6)

B. The Son joyfully \_\_\_\_\_ to and \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Mt. 11:25-27, Jn 4:34, 5:19-47, 6:38, 7:28-29, 8:16-19, 42)

C. The Father will get ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(1 Cor. 15:28, Phil. 2:11)

### II. The Father is the \_\_\_\_\_

A. The Architect of \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 17:24-29, Eph. 1:4, 3:14)

B. The Architect of \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 1:4)

C. The Architect of a \_\_\_\_\_ to work \_\_\_\_\_ after the counsel of \_\_\_\_\_ to the praise of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Eph. 1:10-12)

# Growth Group Stuff

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### CONNECTING and Caring for One Another (20 – 30 min)

Remember, the goal is not to get through all the questions, but to connect over and process God's Word together. This requires sharing what we're thinking about, what we're busy with, what we're struggling through.

### EXPLORING God's Word with One Another (20 – 30 min)

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-14 again together. Where do you see the Father, the Son and the Spirit in this text? Can you distinguish between their roles? How would you describe the Father's role?
2. Which person of the Trinity, do you tend to think about, talk about and relate to best and most?
3. How does the Father get "top billing" in this text? Look back at our Easter text, 1 Peter 1:3-9, and see how the Father gets top billing there.
4. When you think of God as Father, what do you think of? Is that a positive image or a negative image? Describe your father and how you think that affects your view of God as Father.
5. Ephesians 1 is mammoth! When we say that the Father is the Awesome Architect, what do we mean? How is that shown in Ephesians 1?
6. Look at Romans 8:32. What is this text saying? What does it have to do with the Fatherhood of God? What does it have to do with us?
7. If you're a Father, how can/should the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God shape your own fathering?

### PRAYING for One Another (15-20 min)

*We want to encourage depth of personal sharing and caring in our Growth Groups, so our goal is to pray for each other, not for everyone else in our extended circles. So, really focus on sharing and praying for one another in light of this text/message, as well as for any other requests/needs the group has. Let's let God's Word lead us to the throne of grace.*

## Welcome:

*If you are visiting with us at Grace, we welcome you as our guest. Please take a moment to fill out the visitor tab and put it in the offering bag. Thank you!*

May 1, 2011  9:00  10:45

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Children/DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

New Resident in area  Visiting area

New Address

Please include me in the church directory

How you heard about Grace: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate boxes:

### Single

College  18-24  25-36  37-50

50-60  60+

### Married

20s-30s  30s-40s  40s-50s

50s-60s  60+

**I want to find a place to serve!**

Please send me information about...

children's ministry  worship ministry

student ministry  women's ministry

college ministry  men's ministry

growth groups

## Our Vision...

*To see lives, families  
our community and  
the world transformed  
by the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ.*

## Our Mission...

*To celebrate,  
proclaim and live  
the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ on the  
Central Coast  
and beyond!*

grace  
San Luis Obispo

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SLO, 93406  
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## Our Declaration of Faith

The following is an abbreviated version of our full Grace SLO Declaration of Faith. We encourage you to review the full version at [graceslo.org/About/WhatWeBelieve/](http://graceslo.org/About/WhatWeBelieve/)

### The Scripture

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the complete revelation of God's plan of salvation, and the divine and final authority for Christian practice and life.

### The Triune God

We believe in one Holy and loving God, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who know, love and glorify one another.

### Humankind

We believe God created humankind in His own image. Humankind, tempted by Satan, rebelled against God and sinned. As a result, all human beings are alienated from God and corrupted in every aspect of their being, and are lost, blind and dead in sin and in desperate need of the saving grace of God.

### The Gospel

We believe Jesus Christ is the Gospel. The Good News of God's sovereign, saving grace is revealed in His incarnation, sinless life, substitutionary death, and victorious bodily resurrection. The Gospel is central to our understanding, interpretation and application of all the Scriptures.

### Salvation

We believe salvation is an act of God and is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. God, in His unfathomable grace, justifies sinners who repent of their sins and trust in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### The Church

We believe God, by His Word and Spirit, creates the Church as He calls sinful humans out of the whole human race into the fellowship of His family. A believer's membership in the universal Church, the global body of Christ, is to express itself through consistent worship with, service in, commitment and accountability to a local church.

### The Return of Jesus Christ

We believe in the visible, personal, glorious return of Jesus Christ, which will bring about the consummation of all things. Those who trust the Gospel of Jesus Christ will enter into joyous, everlasting life with God. Those who do not trust the Gospel will experience everlasting, conscious punishment in hell. We believe in the new heavens and the new earth, where Jesus Christ will reign forever.

Sunday, May 1, 2011

**BLESSED BE THE GOD  
AND FATHER OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST  
who has blessed  
us with every  
spiritual blessing  
IN THE  
HEAVENLY PLACES.**

**EPHESIANS 1:3**



Grace Church, San Luis Obispo

