**Vision Document #8 - Grace-Saturated**

The fifth of six core values at The Well is that we are Grace-Saturated. **Grace-saturated** church culture is the horizontal bi-product of a church whose vertical focus is on Jesus and the gospel. It is the inter-personal overflow of a church whose foundation and source are the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is also a strategic focus of a church that wants to see people mature and reach their maximum potential.

Grace is God’s limitless and unconditional love which is infinitely far beyond any possibility of being earned or deserved. Simultaneously, grace serves as God's method of divine enablement. Grace is how God chooses to transform, motivate, and assist His children. His grace accomplishes redemption, salvation, and sanctification. His grace enables obedience and fruitfulness. His grace silences the deceptive voice of shallow motivators such as legalism, performance, works, and religious expectation.

The revelation of God’s grace is the basis for our interactions with one another. We relate to one another based on the heart of the Father, who loves and desires all people to come into His family and into maturity. Therefore, we purposely relate to every person with unconditional and extravagant love. We make it impossible for people to earn more of our acceptance or approval. They already have it because of their inherent value to God. We do not want people to try to perform for more love and acceptance. Rather, we want to shower them with grace so that they can gain a deeper revelation of His heart and a deeper experience of His grace!

We relate to one another based on the example of Christ who was called the friend of sinners and who died for the ungodly. Jesus demonstrated His grace by associating with those deemed unworthy and unqualified. He brought people close to Him whose lives were full of mistakes. Then He unleashed a torrential flow of grace by dying on the cross. Jesus had no intentions of encouraging people to merely behave a little better or improve their spirituality. He chose to love them radically, win their trust, and then sacrifice His life to give them what they ultimately needed – grace!

God is the grace faucet. We relate to one another out of His abundant supply of grace. He is the grace manufacturer and supplier. We are sourced by his grace. Romans 5:5 says that God pours His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. This reality is simple and effective. God pours His grace into our lives. We pour His grace into others. And God’s **grace** channeled through us, changes and transforms lives spectacularly.

Saturating one another in grace means being patient and tolerant in their process of ongoing sanctification. It means that I am not motivated to change people because I’m irritated, because they push my buttons, because I see their flaws, or because of anything of the like. Grace-saturated means we do not unrighteously judge people. Judgment only weakens trust, hurts relationships, and hinders the work of God in their life. **Judgment** also fosters unbelief and agrees with Satan’s view of people. Yuck!

We choose to love people as they are and come alongside as **friends**and **allies**. Those who confess sins are never shamed, ridiculed, exposed, or mentally dismissed. Rather, they are reassured of God's love and acceptance, along with His power to effect true transformation and change. Grace-saturated means I am excited about God’s intentions for their life, not my intentions for their life. Grace-saturated means I am patient, long-suffering, tolerant, always hoping the best**, and**believing all things for people. It means I am not hung up on people’s problems, but I am invested in their long-term journey. Grace-saturated means I am engaged in the unfolding of their destiny and their process of preparation.

Saturating with grace activates “seeing people in the spirit” and destroys “seeing people in the flesh.” Seeing people through the lens of God’s grace gives us faith-eyes for who somebody is meant to become and also gives us the anointing to help them get there. The grace lens comes from tapping into the heart of God on behalf of people. On the other hand, seeing people in the flesh does not require "discernment" or "wisdom". Satan frequently enables Christians to see each other in the flesh and affirms us that we are being spiritually perceptive. This elevates our pride and a false sense of security rooted in comparison, not in the lavish grace of God.

In a **grace-saturated** culture, church members receive love, acceptance, and honor regardless of their character, behavior, consistency, discipline, or contribution. The result is that a church becomes a safe place. People learn to be vulnerable and transparent. People can show their true colors. Therefore, people can experience a deeper and richer process of ongoing repentance because they are not wasting decades of their life performing for church status and approval. Also, people form rich relationships because hiding from others is not an option. True fellowship occurs as people relate to each other by the true pattern and power of God. At The Well, we have a license and commission to shower with grace and pursue the heart of God for one another. We are, without reservation, grace-saturated!