



Grace Group Discussion Questions

Title: Declaration of Dependence - True Free Speech
Theme: Who we trust determines how we speak. We are free speakers when we depend on God in the messiness and opposition of everyday life.
Text: Isaiah 36:1 - 37:20
Preacher: Andy Draycott
Date: July 4, 2010

Grace Group Questions for this Sunday's Sermon:

- 1) What voices do you listen to, spouse, parents, teachers, boss, co-worker, friends, preachers, talk show host, Christian leader? Do they enable you to speak freely as yourself or to get wrapped up in trying to be like them?
- 2) Do you find it difficult to relate the 'poetry' of collective worship on a Sunday to the 'prose' of everyday in the week? How can you cling to the full vision of the gospel and our hope in the midst of day to day?

(Maybe think about what glories, dreams and realities of America are celebrated on the 4th of July that are actually part and parcel of everyday life –Freedom of speech and movement, democratic government which means you vote, corruption gets exposed, leaders come and leaders go peacefully, people can go about their lives with little interference, we do not live in fear of foreign troops or dictators... Then imagine all we celebrate on Sunday that is at work sustaining your discipleship in the week – the Holy Spirit's work, the gift of faith as a clinging to Jesus rather than a work to be achieved, the prayers and fellowship of fellow believers –grace group, etc.)

- 3) What does it mean to depend on God and be part of his people in relation to the pull of patriotism?
- 4) Where do you encounter spoken defiance to God in your daily life or cultural surroundings? Do you tend to respond with speech or silence? Is this reaction demonstrative of faith or fear?
- 5) When do you feel like you are going through the motions of what is expected of you as a Christian – business as usual? How can you see this positively, as assurance of God's steadfastness, despite your weaknesses or desire for novelty? How can this realization lead you to rejoice at the Spirit's work in you? How might it be a call to more actively celebrate God's majestic work in your life through gospel?
- 6) How do you find praying dependent prayers when you are left hanging, not seeing the answers? What would it take to trust that depending on God is how we are meant to be free – rather than being in control of things ourselves? Why is this so culturally counter-intuitive?

Pray for one another.