



TRINITY GRACE
CONFERENCE

Trinity Grace Conference: Winter 2022 Report

The winter Trinity Grace Conference for 2022 was held on the 7th and 8th January, hosted by Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom. To kick off this New Year, we chose the theme of “Confusion And Clarity: Living As Believers In The 21st Century”. The conference was attended by over 20 young people (aged 16-30) from across the UK.

The mission of the Trinity Grace Conference is to lead the younger generation of evangelical Christians to greater love, conviction in the faith and practical righteousness, being firmly rooted in the truths of God’s word for their own sanctification. Thereby, to build up the next generation of church members and leaders, for the greater purity and strength of local Churches in the UK, to the glory of God.

The goal of this conference was to provide a firm grounding on the truths that are found in God’s word alone, to enable us to stand against the culture that we live in today. We had in mind the issues of cultural marxism spanning race, identity, relationships and leadership. All of these areas have become muddled within our society, leading to a minefield that many of us have to navigate, whether that be at school, at university, at work, at home or even within our churches. With all the pressures to conform, teaching on this subject is vital so that we do not compromise on the truth of God’s word.

Our conference opened with a message from Tony Flanders (Trinity Grace Church) entitled “God’s Word Of Clarity”. He encouraged us to see that the Bible, God’s sufficient and infallible word, is the tool that we need to navigate the issues of our day. The confusion in the world around us comes from man in his sinfulness, therefore, the only source of clarity is God, who indeed is the source of all wisdom. God’s word is truth and enables us to see the lies that surround us. If we have this word of truth and stand upon it, then we possess greater knowledge than the world, because God

himself is greater than the world. Tony closed by encouraging us to meditate on God's word, relying on the Holy Spirit to guide us, that our thoughts may be conformed to the Bible, rather than being conformed to the world.



Mike Judge (Chorlton Evangelical Church) brought us our second message on “The Rise Of Confusion”. Very helpfully, he began by showing that the confusion in the world around us can be traced all the way back to the fall, where man was first tempted to believe that he knew better than God. Ever since Adam fell there has always been conflict between the clarity of the word of God and the confusion of man in rebellion. There is nothing new under the sun. Dealing specifically with some of the issues we face today, Mike, beginning in 18th century France with the philosopher Rousseau and the later French Revolution, showed how people came to see the institutions of society, such as the church and the family, as hinderances and sought to tear down these structures and start again. Taking us all the way through to the popular movements of today, we saw how and why we have ended up in our current situation.

As our third message, Brett Shaw (Trinity Grace Church), spoke to us with the aid of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith on “Clear Freedom; Bound Confusion”, the doctrine of Christian liberty. We saw that in Adam we lost our freedom and were in bondage to sin, but through the work of Jesus

Christ and the redemption purchased for us, we now have true freedom to obey God and know communion with him. God's law has been written on our hearts and we live in covenant relation with him, our consciences bound to his word. However, we were challenged not to let confusion take away our freedom, either through a legalistic approach to God's law or a careless lawlessness in the light of God's grace.

Ali McLachlan (Grace Edinburgh) brought us our fourth message on "Living In The Confusion". He reminded us of how our society today seeks to undermine the opening chapters of Genesis and of how much of the confusion around race, gender, relationships etc, have come out of this. He reminded us that in the midst of this failing culture, our greatest need as Christians is to know God and to serve Him faithfully. We are in a battle against the evil one. In the great commission, Jesus calls us to preach the Gospel to the world around us. This is the only cure to the confusion of our society.

The conference closed with a sermon from Tony Flanders exhorting us, in the light of all the darkness in our society, to find our peace in Jesus Christ. He has overcome the world through his life, death and resurrection and therefore, if we are in him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, our victory over the world is also assured. As a result, we are fully enabled to face the battles that lie ahead of us.

Throughout the conference we enjoyed plenty of time for fellowship together, whether that was over a cup of coffee, the excellent catered meals or the quiz night on the Saturday. It was an encouragement to share with likeminded young Christian people, discussing with each other the messages we had heard and the issues we faced in our situations. Along with this there was the opportunity to purchase a range of helpful Christian material from the bookstall provided by Broken Wharfe.

As young people we were greatly helped, encouraged and challenged by the teaching and fellowship we received at the conference. God willing the next Trinity Grace Conference will be held later this year, in September 2022.

All of the messages from the conference are available at trinitygraceconference.com or via the Trinity Grace Church SermonAudio page.