



What GRACE is All About

Week 3—Church is Not About Me



1. Read Mark 9:33-37. When Jesus asked the disciples what they had been talking about, why do you think they did not want to tell him? What did Jesus say was the actual answer to what they were discussing? How do you think his answer differed from what they were discussing? How does it differ from what we are taught in our world?
2. Read Mark 8:34,35. What do you think Jesus means when he says you must lose your life to save it? Do you think he is talking about the same thing as the first question? How would we actually lose our life if we try to save it, would we physically die?
3. What did Pastor Rick say are the three characteristics of a “ME” Christian? What are personal preferences? What are some examples of personal preferences people have in regard to the church they attend? Do you think a person should leave a church they are at because of their personal preferences? Why or why not?
4. Read Philippians 2:1,2. What four things does this verse say we should do for each other in the church? How would you define what it means to do each of these? Which of these have you experienced at Grace Church or your small group? Give a personal example. Which one of these do you feel you are good at doing? Which one do you think is your weakest and needs work? How could you as a group help each other to improve in these areas?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:23. According to this verse, what should we use as a standard to determine if something we do is right or wrong if the Bible does not specifically say whether it is right or wrong?

Answers

1. *They probably did not want to talk about it because they knew it was wrong and contrary to what Jesus had taught them. The actual answer is that whoever was the greatest servant of everyone else was the greatest in God's economy. The greatest would serve and put the needs of even a little child above themselves.*
2. *In this passage to lose your life is to give up what you want in life in order to accomplish what God wants you to do in your life. You would therefore save your life because everything that you live for will have eternal benefits for you and others. If you try to save your life, live only for the things you want in this world, then everything you live for will be lost as soon as you die, and you would have wasted your life, so you lose it. There are no eternal benefits or rewards for you or others. It is not talking about physical death.*
3. *The three characteristics of a "ME" Christian are: a. Argues about personal preferences; b. Abdicates personal responsibilities to others; and c. Abandons the church mission for personal matters. Personal preferences are things that we like or want but are not things mandated by the Bible. When a Christian is immature and wants the church to do everything the way they like to the point that they focus so much on those issues that they cannot grow spiritually, then they should probably leave and find another church. If the type of music or the loudness of the music prevents you from spiritual growth, you should find another church. But ultimately, if a church is doing everything that they should Biblically, you might want to ask God to change your heart and see your preferences for what they are: just your preferences that should not determine your spiritual growth.*
4. *The four things in this passage that we should do for each other are: a. Encourage others; b. Comfort others; c. Fellowship with others; and d. Care for others.*
5. *The standard in this passage is that if something we do would harm another person spiritually, emotionally, or physically, then it is wrong because it violates the principle of putting the needs of others before our own, even if the Bible does not specifically talk about the particular action.*