



# IDENTITY

Moving From Spectator  
To Participant  
October 20-21, 2018

**1** Make Grace a place people want to join, not just visit.

By understanding 4 universal human desires:

- Everyone wants to be noticed.

## Psalm 142:4 (GW)

Loudly, I cry to the LORD. Loudly, I plead with the LORD for mercy. I pour out my complaints in his presence and tell him my troubles. When I begin to lose hope, you already know what I am experiencing. My enemies have hidden a trap for me on the path where I walk. Look to my right and see that no one notices me. Escape is impossible for me. No one cares about me. I call out to you, O LORD. I say, "You are my refuge, my own inheritance in this world of the living." Pay attention to my cry for help because I am very weak. Rescue me from those who pursue me because they are too strong for me. Release my soul from prison so that I may give thanks to your name. Righteous people will surround me because you are good to me.

... Jesus noticed a man with a deformed hand.

Matt. 12:10a

Jesus noticed a tax collector named Luke.

Luke 5:27

Jesus noticed a poor widow giving 2 pennies for offering.

Luke 21:2

Jesus noticed a paralyzed man lying helpless.

John 5:6

Jesus noticed a man born blind.

John 9:1

Learning how to love like Jesus is found more in his stops than his steps.

## Matthew 10:13-14 (GN)

If the people in that house welcome you, let your greeting of peace remain; but if they do not welcome you, then take back your greeting. And if some home or town will not welcome you or listen to you, then leave that place and shake the dust off your feet.

## Luke 7:44 (CEV)

He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Have you noticed this woman? When I came into your home, you didn't give me any water so I could wash my feet. But she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair."

- Everyone wants to be accepted.

### **Romans 15:7 (NLT)**

Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

### **Romans 14:1 (NCV)**

Accept into your group someone who is weak in faith, and do not argue about opinions.

- **Everyone wants to feel needed.**

### **Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)**

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

- **Everyone wants to be loved.**

### **John 13:35 (NIV)**

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

**Fact—Growing churches love and loving churches grow!**

## **2**

**Explain the value of membership.**

**The 3 parts to following Jesus:**

- **Believing**

### **Acts 16:31 (LB)**

...“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.”

- **Belonging**

### **Romans 8:29 (LB)**

Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

- **Becoming**

### **Romans 8:29 (LB)**

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers.

**The 5 Benefits of Membership at Grace:**

- \* **It *identifies* me as a genuine believer**

Ephesians 2:19, Romans 12:5

- \* **It gives me a spiritual family for support.**  
Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25
- \* **It provides a place to discover and use my gifts.**  
1 Corinthians 14:4-27
- \* **It places me under spiritual protection of godly leaders.**  
Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28-29
- \* **It surrounds me with the accountability I need to grow.**  
Ephesians 5:21

### **3** Equip everyone through membership classes.

#### **101: Discovering My Church Family**

##### **Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)**

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

##### **Ephesians 1:11-12 (MSG)**

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

##### **Colossians 1:16 (MSG)**

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.

#### **201: Discovering My Spiritual Growth**

##### **2 Peter 3:18 (ICB)**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory be to him now and forever! Amen.

#### **301: Discovering My Service**

##### **1 Peter 4:9-11 (ICB)**

Open your homes to each other, without complaining. Each of you received a spiritual gift. God has shown you his grace in giving you different gifts. And you are like servants who are responsible for using God's gifts. So be good servants and use your gifts to serve each other. Anyone who speaks should speak words from God. The person who serves should serve with the strength that God gives. You should

do these things so that in everything God will be praised through Jesus Christ. Power and glory belong to him forever and ever. Amen.

#### **401: Discovering My Mission**

##### **John 17:17 (MSG)**

In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.

#### **4 Members make and keep covenants.**

**The difference between spectators and participants is summed up in one word: commitment.**

##### **Malachi 3:10 (ICB)**

"Bring to the storehouse a tenth of what you gain. Then there will be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord of heaven's armies. "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out more blessings than you have room for."

#### **5 Members make community a priority.**

**"We must grow smaller as we grow larger." We do this through weekend participation and making small group a priority.**

##### **Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**Become a participant at Grace today!**