

INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



The New International Version translation is used for the questions.

1. Read Romans 15:14-33. In verse 14, Paul says that he is convinced that the Romans are complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. Do you think we should all get to the place in our knowledge of God's word where we can teach it to other Christians? What is this process of passing on to other Christians what we have learned called in Christianity? Do you have a person in your life right now that you are influencing spiritually?
2. In Romans, Pastor Rick said that Paul had a two-fold ministry, what were they? Do you think the Lord expects us to do the same, or was he an exception? Why is it important to have both types of ministry? At Grace, we teach that every member has a ministry in the church and a mission in the world. Do you agree with this idea? Have you discovered in what way God wants you to minister to others at Grace? If not, how can you go about discovering how God wants you to minister to others?
3. In 15:15,16, what does Paul attribute his ability to minister in these two ways to? What do you think this means? Have you ever felt that you could not minister to others because you are unqualified or you are not good enough? What is God's answer for those who feel this way?
4. What did Pastor Rick say that Grace Church is built on? Why is this important? Read Matthew 7:24-27. What does this passage teach us about how we should not only build a church, but our own lives also? How do you do this?
5. Read Hebrews 4:12. What are the five characteristics of the Word of God listed in this verse? How are the words of the Bible different than the words of any other book? Do you believe the Bible is God's Word and how can you prove it is?
6. Pastor Rick talked about humility and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit. What did he say humility is not? What is the balance between these two extremes?
7. What does it mean "to have vision" from a Christian perspective? Read Matthew 17:18-21. What does the message of this passage have to do with the ability to have vision? Do you have a vision for how God could use you to accomplish great spiritual things for him? If not, what are you lacking? How do you develop greater faith?

ANSWERS

1. *Yes, we should all get to the point where we are able and willing to pass on spiritual truth to other Christians in our lives. This is what is known as discipleship, where you consciously pass on to another Christian what God has taught you through his word and by working in your life. God commanded us to go into all the world and make disciples of everyone. We should all be discipling someone in our lives.*
2. *Paul's two-fold ministry was one to unbelievers of sharing the gospel and one of discipling those who know Christ, believers. You must have both because you cannot disciple people who do not know Christ as savior. We are to win people to Christ with the gospel and then train those we bring to Christ to serve him and lead their own people to Christ. This is known as multiplication. Every member of the body of Christ has been given a spiritual gift that he should use to build up the body of Christ, other believers. This is his ministry in the church. One way to learn about your spiritual gift is to attend our 301 membership class, but the best way is to begin serving somewhere, you will then discover your spiritual gift and how you can most effectively serve others.*
3. *What is God's answer for those who feel this way? Paul attributes the grace of God in his life as to why he was able to reach people with the gospel and then disciple them. God's grace is not only giving us salvation as a free gift, it is also giving us the desire and ability to serve him once we become a Christian. God's answer to those who feel like they cannot minister to others is that through his strength and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, he equips and empowers us to serve, so there is no one who is unworthy to serve. It is through his power, not our own, that we are all capable of being used by God.*
4. *Pastor Rick said that Grace Church is built on the Word of God, the truth revealed to us by God. This is vital because only the Word of God is permanent in this life and anything that is to grow and last must be built on the truth revealed in God's Word. This is exactly what Jesus taught in Matthew when he compared building a house on a rock to putting into practice his teachings. When the storms of life beat on it, it will stand. To build a life or a church on anything else is to invite the disaster of complete collapse when things get hard in life, like the house built on sand. The way you build your house on the rock of God's truth is to believe everything God says in the Bible and then base all of your decisions in life of what to do on that truth.*
5. *The five characteristics are: a. Living, constantly active and alive; b. Powerful, energizing and life changing; c. Sharp, cuts straight to the issue or matter; d. Dividing, pierces into our thinking to expose what we really think and believe; and e. Discerning, judges the thoughts and intents of our mind as being right or wrong. The words of the Bible are different from any other words because they are just as alive and powerful as God himself. (If being able to prove that the Bible is the living word of God and what we read today is what was originally written is a topic that your group would like to learn more about, contact Pastor Mark to come and present a two-week study on this topic at markschweitzer@gracechurchco.com.)*
6. *Pastor Rick talked about humility and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit. What did he say humility is not? What is the balance between these two extremes? Pastor Rick said that humility is not denigrating yourself and saying that you are worthless, neither is it thinking that you are God's gift to humanity and God is lucky to have you. The balance is to realize that as a person created in God's image, you have great value to him and he does not create trash. At*

the same time it means to realize that everything we are and able to accomplish is because of God's work in our lives, not that we are better or worse than anyone else. God's power is what gives us the ability to serve him, not our own human reasoning or abilities. Humility is not comparing yourself to other people, it is comparing yourself to Christ.

- 7. To have vision as a Christian is to believe what Paul said in Philippians; "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength". It is realizing that if I trust and rely on God for the strength and ability, there is absolutely nothing that I cannot do if God wants it done. It is being able to see what is possible for God to accomplish through me if I live in obedience and faith in him. Any person who is a believer can accomplish as great of works for God as anyone in the Bible if they are willing to allow God to have complete access to their life. In Matthew 17 Jesus said that the amount of faith you have in him will determine what you are able to do for God, up to moving mountains that are impeding what God wants to do through you. Our lack of faith is what hinders God from doing more in our lives. The way you develop greater faith is by taking risks. When a person understands what God wants them to do but doubts whether they can do it, but goes ahead and tries despite their doubts, trusting in God to make up any deficiencies they might have, God honors his word and enables them to accomplish what they attempt. This success enables them to trust God more and attempt even greater things for his glory. Faith is just like a muscle; the more you exercise the muscle, the stronger it gets.*

