



What GRACE is All About



CHURCH IS NOT ABOUT ME September 30 & October 1, 2023

Mark 9:33-37 (NLT)

After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, “What were you discussing out on the road?” But they didn’t answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, “Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.” Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.”

A “ME” Christian:

- Argues about personal preferences
- Abdicates personal responsibilities to others
- Abandons the church mission for personal matters

HOW TO BE A “WE” CHURCH (“ME” LAST):

1 Make everything in our church about Jesus.

Colossians 3:11 (TPT)

In this new creation life, your nationality makes no difference, nor your ethnicity, education, nor economic status—they matter nothing. For it is Christ that means everything as he lives in every one of us!

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 24-26 (TPT)

Just as the human body is one, though it has many parts that together form one body, so too is Christ. For by one Spirit we all were immersed and mingled into one single body. And no matter our status—whether we are Jews or non-Jews, oppressed or free—we are all privileged to drink deeply of the same Holy Spirit ... But some of our body parts don't require as much attention. Instead, God has mingled the body parts together, giving greater honor to the "lesser" members who lacked it. He has done this intentionally so that every member would look after the others with mutual concern, and so that there will be no division in the body. In that way, whatever happens to one member happens to all. If one suffers, everyone suffers. If one is honored, everyone rejoices.

Philippians 2:1-2 (NLT)

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

How the church should operate:

- **Encourage others.**
- **Comfort others.**
- **Fellowship with others.**
- **Care for others.**

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (TPT)

All praises belong to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he is the Father of tender mercy and the God of endless comfort. He always comes alongside us to comfort us in every suffering so that we can come alongside those who are in any painful trial. We can bring them this same comfort that God has poured out upon us.

2

Eliminate selfishness and personal preferences.

Philippians 2:3-4 (TPT)

Be free from pride-filled opinions, for they will only harm your cherished unity. Don't allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves. Abandon every display of selfishness. Possess a greater concern for what matters to others instead of your own interests.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 (TPT)

You say, “Under grace there are no rules and we’re free to do anything we please.” Not exactly. Because not everything promotes growth in others. Your slogan, “We’re allowed to do anything we choose,” may be true—but not everything causes the spiritual advancement of others. So don’t always seek what is best for you at the expense of another.

10 SIGNS OF A “ME” CHURCH CHRISTIAN (TEST):

Put a checkmark by the items I personally struggle with.

- I prefer the music my way.
- I want a voice and vote in every decision made.
- I’m more concerned about the property than the people.
- I’m more program-driven than Purpose Driven.
- I’m more concerned about money than our mission.
- I want my pastor and staff to meet my demands.
- I believe my investment in the ministry entitles me to whatever I want.
- I care more about tradition than finding culturally relevant ways to share the gospel.
- I’m easily offended by decisions of leadership that don’t meet my standards.
- I’m apathetic about sharing the gospel with the lost.

3

Love and Serve together only for God’s glory.

Philippians 2:5–11 (MSG)

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

I mirror Jesus' attitude when I:

- **Refuse to cling to my position of authority in order to serve others.**
- **Recognize that serving others means laying aside my personal preferences.**
- **Reflect the humility of Jesus.**

Ephesians 3:7 (NLT)

“By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading the good news.”

Jesus willingly died so we could live with Him eternally.

1 Peter 3:18 (TPT)

Christ suffered and died for sins once and for all—the innocent for the guilty —to bring you near to God by his body being put to death and by being raised to life by the Spirit.



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A “ME” Christian:

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- _____ personal responsibilities to others
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How the church should operate:

- _____ others.
- _____ others.
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