



What GRACE is All About

Week 4—Great Churches Develop Great Leaders



1. Read Hebrews 13:7 and 17. In these verses, what reasons are given to submit to the authority of the spiritual leaders of the church? How do we do this?
2. Read Nehemiah 1:8-10. Nehemiah had a passion given to him by God to see the Israelites restored to their land from exile and to rebuild Jerusalem. In this passage, what promise of God caused this passion? How should the Bible be the fuel for what we attempt to do in our lives?
3. Pastor Rick talked about how important it is to have teams in order to accomplish God's work on earth. In what ways is Christianity a team sport? How can your small group act as a team? Is there any place in Christianity for the "Lone Ranger" Christian?
4. Do you see yourself as a leader? Are leaders always the "upfront" type of people? Read 1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Timothy 4:12, and Titus 2:6-8. Are these verses examples of a type of leadership? What type? Do you think it is safe to say that we are all leading those around us, for good or bad?
5. The truth of the matter is that we all are to be followers and leaders at the same time. Do you have a person that you have a relationship with that you can follow their spiritual leadership? Some people say, "Well I do not follow people, I only follow Christ". Do you think there is a problem with that statement? Do you have a person that you are leading spiritually? What is the word that we use for this process of spiritual followers and leaders?
6. Pastor Rick said that there are three things you can do in order to support the pastors and leaders of the church, what were they? Which one do you think you are best at? Which one do you think you are worst at? Discuss how you as a small group can apply these three ideas.

Answers

- 1. It says that we should submit to their authority because of the example they provide for us to follow, because they have been given the responsibility by God to protect us spiritually, God will hold them accountable for how they did this, and for our own benefit because if we support them, they will do a better job which then brings benefit to us. We submit to their authority by following the leadership they provide and helping them to accomplish what God has laid on their hearts to do.*
- 2. Nehemiah knew from the writings of Moses in the first five books of the Old Testament that God had actually said that the Israelites would rebel against Him and that He would cause them to go into captivity in other lands (Deuteronomy 4:25-31). He promised that if they would turn back to Him, God would restore them back to their land. Nehemiah was doing what he was doing based on this promise of God. When we see what God promises what He will do through us, this should motivate us to claim these promises and act on them in our lives.*
- 3. Christianity is the ultimate "team" to the point that God describes the church as a body where all parts function together to accomplish the goal of the head of the body, which is Christ. There is no place in the body for a "Lone Ranger" part: no Christian is to act totally on their own apart from the rest of the body. And even the Lone Ranger had Tonto. We cannot accomplish on earth what God wants us to accomplish without working together as a team, all striving to achieve the same goals set out for us by Christ.*
- 4. Most leaders are not the "up front" type, although there is a need for one person to chart out a course for any organization to follow. The same is true in the church which is why God appoints spiritual leaders (elders) to lead. In the verses, the most common type of leadership which we all should partake in is leadership by example. People should be able to look at how we live our lives, copy it, and know that they are then following Christ. We are all leading someone by our example, even if it is only our own family. The question is if someone follows my example, where will they end up?*
- 5. The word for the process of following and leading is discipleship. We should all have someone in our lives that is discipling us and someone that we are discipling. The person who says "I do not follow anyone but Christ" is really saying that they do not want anyone in their lives to look at how they are living and hold them accountable. We all need to have physical people that we give permission to hold us accountable for our words and actions. Even the pastors of a church need people that they are accountable for because we are all sinners and make mistakes.*
- 6. The three things we can do to support our spiritual leaders are: a. Pray for them daily; b. Protect their integrity and character; and c. Partner with them to serve God and accomplish His purposes.*