



WEEK 3—How Caring For Others Makes Me More Like Jesus

1. When you think about the idea that you are “to become like Christ”, what crosses your mind? Do you think this is a possible or impossible goal? Why? If it is an impossible goal, why do you think God asks us to accomplish it? What exactly will it look like in our lives if we become like Christ? How can our small group help us in our journey to be like Christ? What are some things that you have experienced that show you that you are making progress on this journey?
Answer—This is an impossible goal because Jesus was God and therefore sinless. We cannot be sinless because we still have a sinful nature. God gives us the goal and expects us to work toward it. You can measure if you are making progress on this goal because to be like Christ is to in every circumstance of my life to think like Jesus would (Rom. 13:14; Phil. 2:5, 4:8; to act like Jesus would (Phil. 2:6-8; 1 Peter 1:14-16) and to speak like He would (1 Peter 2:21-23). You might want to mention these three areas and look at the verses together. You can measure your progress by looking at areas that you think, speak, and act differently than you used to.
2. The process of becoming like Christ is called sanctification, which means to be set apart from the rest of the world in order to accomplish God’s purposes. God did this to you the moment you trusted Christ as Savior, you became different from everyone else. (2 Cor. 5:17) Romans 12:2 (read it together) tells us to not be conformed to this world, what do you think this means? How have you set yourself apart from the rest of the people in the world since you have become a Christian? Romans 12:2 tells us that we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds, what do you think that means? How do we renew our minds?
Answer—To be conformed to this world means to think, speak, and act the way that the rest of the world does. If you are setting yourself apart from the world, then you do not do things the way that unsaved people do, you follow God’s instructions instead. The only way to be transformed in behavior is to be transformed in our thinking, and this happens as we are constantly putting God’s Word into our minds. The Christian life is won or lost by what we allow ourselves to think about. Do we see life from God’s point of view or the world’s point of view?
3. This process of sanctification is actually impossible for us to accomplish on our own, so God has given us help. Read Galatians 5:16-18, what does this say we must do if we are to live

differently? What do you think it means to “walk in the Spirit”? Read the following passages and discuss what role the Holy Spirit has in enabling us to live like Jesus lived. (Leader: you can use as many of these verses as you like/have time for, it is simply to facilitate the need of the Holy Spirit’s power in our lives to live the way we should). John 14:15-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; 4:8,31; Romans 5:5; 8:4-13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 6:19,20.

Answer—Being filled with the Spirit and to walk in the Spirit mean the same thing: It is when we yield our will to God’s will as revealed in the Bible; the Holy Spirit takes control and enables us with supernatural power to do spiritual things. You cannot successfully be like Jesus without the enabling ministry of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is the Holy Spirit’s job within us.

4. The fourth purpose God has for every believer is to serve God by serving others through the local church. In what way are you serving others now in a local body of believers? You were given a spiritual gift when you trusted Jesus as your savior in order to serve and build into the lives of others, do you know which one you were given? In what way are you using your spiritual gift? If not, we teach the people of Grace how to accomplish the five purposes and how God has shaped you to serve others through the church through our membership classes. Have you taken the opportunity to attend these classes?
5. In his message, Pastor Rick said that there are four specific ways in which a servant of Christ acts. Take some time to discuss what each one means and evaluate for yourself in which areas you are strong and which areas you need to work on to improve.

Answer— 1. Real servants make themselves available. This means that they have told the Lord that they will serve wherever they can in the church. It is a priority, not an afterthought. 2. Real servants pay attention to needs. This means that they are always on the lookout for ways to help others, they follow the command to put the needs of others before their own. 3. Real servants give God the best they have to offer. They do not procrastinate or make excuses for why they cannot be involved in the lives of others. They give as much effort in their ministry as they do their “regular” jobs. 4. Real servants do every task with equal dedication. They do not allow “other things” to get in the way of their service, they are committed and follow through with whatever commitments they make.