FOR THE ONE



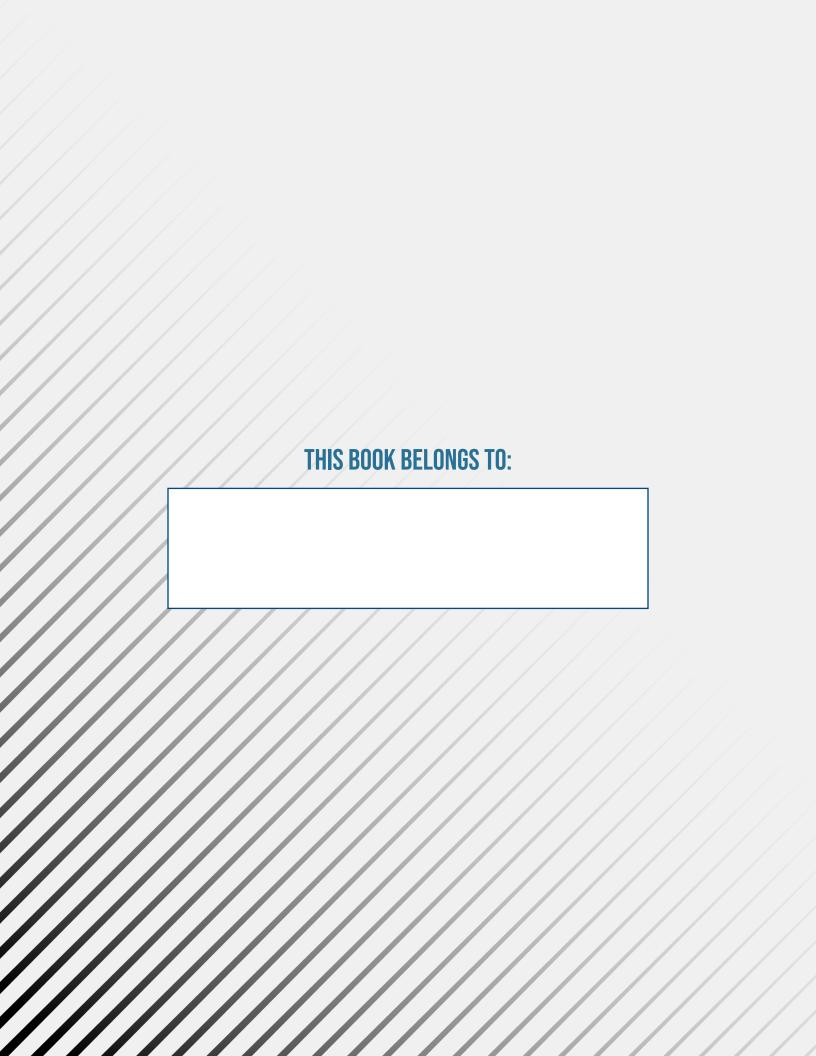
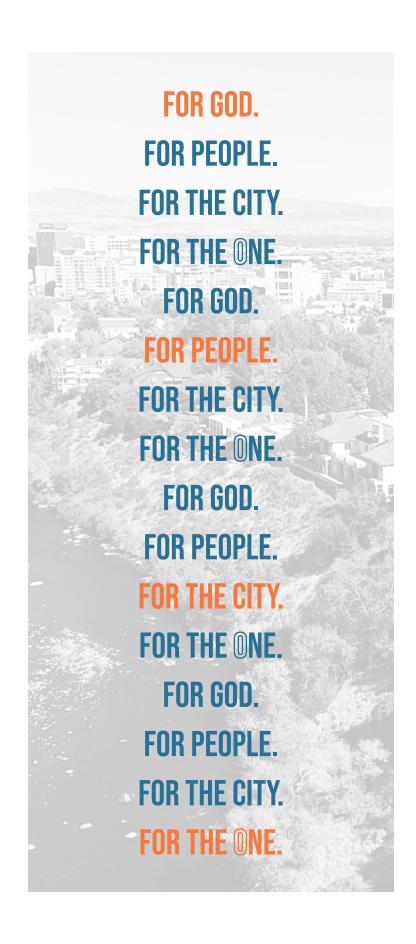


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A LETTER FROM THE PASTORS

GRACE FAMILY,

In all the years of Kingdom impact through Grace Church, we believe God is calling us now into something bigger than ever. More challenging. More God sized. Even bigger stakes. For years, God has been preparing us for a time such as this. It will take all of us to move into what's next, and we believe it will change all of us.

It starts with an honest look at ourselves. We need to look in the mirror, honestly and openly, and measure one thing: Is God getting our best and first in every area of our lives? Are we really living for Him? In His power, for His Glory? Really?

Are we living our lives for the One?

Now is the time for us to step out boldly and completely for Jesus as we commit all of us to His purpose. God is calling us, individually and corporately as His church to step into something new. Something beyond ourselves, bigger than we can do on our own and something with potential beyond anything we've ever done.

For the One is important for the Kingdom. It's important for our city and it's very personal for us. Our prayer is that it becomes personal for you and that it changes your life.

We can't wait to see what God does.

Dan

Shane



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

A LOOK AT GRACE'S HISTORY





Lawlor

Grace started on Memorial Day weekend as a merger of two small churches. When other churches in the area were splitting, God called these two church families together.





New Location

Having outgrown Lawlor and needing a permanent location, we moved to our first location on Robb Drive. We built the first building, which is now the Family Center. The first time Pastor Dan saw the building, he knew it was too small.





NOW Project

After years of growing through additional services (at one point we did 7 services each weekend!), we launched an initiative to make room for more people to hear about Jesus. People engaged with God and sacrificed, even through the financial crisis of 2008. We broke ground on the new building on 12/12/2012.

Love Like Jesus Picnics

We ate together, washed feet, and gave away hundreds of shoes. As we opened our hearts to people many of us were used to ignoring, God changed us.



2012



First Service in the Worship Center

In November of 2013, we celebrated the grand opening of the building we meet in each Sunday. This building was built on the shoulders of thousands who came before and gave up something they loved for something they loved more.

Externally Focused Year-End Gifts

Starting with Kids Kottage, our Year-End Gifts took on an external focus. We started giving to secular agencies because we wanted to show the love of Jesus to people who didn't know Him. That changed the way people see church.









HopeFirst

In 2016, God opened our eyes to the reality of the problem of addiction. We launched Celebrate Recovery. Then God called us to fight that fight in Reno through prevention (the Kids Building) and recovery (Hope Houses). In the meantime, people started talking about addiction openly. Lives were changed and that transformation continues to this day.





Reno Love

God called us to go big into the City of Reno by serving the people in a 'hard work' kind of way. Instead of having church, we went into the city to be the church. Our first project was the monstrous task of cleaning up Idlewild park. Reno Love Projects continue to this day.





Family Impact

Pastor Shane brought a bigger, more focused vision to go big on kids, students, and families through OneNights and school partnerships. Through these gatherings, many kids who were far from God were drawn here to hear the Truth of Jesus.

The Pandemic

COVID-19 changed everything, except for the power of God and His call for us to feed those in need. Services went online (we never missed a beat!) and people continued to engage with God. Plus, we provided over 14,000 meals for the people of Reno through Food for Families.



2020

2021

Kids & Student Camps at Grace

Continuing in our commitment to build and serve the future of the church, kids and student camps serve the community in huge ways and help hundreds of families!



God Behind Bars

Each week, Grace services are streamed into Northern Nevada Correctional Center (NNCC) - where dozens of inmates now believe in Jesus. We have a team that goes each and every week to love on these men, and show them that Jesus is real.



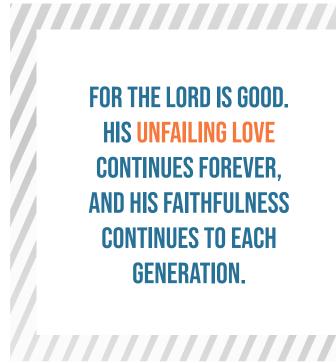
2022

Growing

Record numbers of people coming through our doors to move toward Jesus and each other. Lives continue to be changed as we lean into the Word of God.







Psalm 100:5

WHERE WEARE

As HopeFirst wrapped up in the Fall of 2019, we wondered what was next. Little did we know... COVID. Grace closed its doors March 2020, and everything and everyone went online. We livestreamed our Sunday services and added Zoom meetings for groups to meet throughout the week. Connection took on a whole new meaning and we moved toward people with very real needs. Prayer groups met in front of hospitals across the city

to pray for first responders and those affected by COVID. We also gave away thousands of meals to families who really needed them through Food for Families. The pandemic changed the way we reach people and do church.

Connection took on a whole new meaning.

Since the pandemic, God has kept this church growing and moving toward Jesus like never before. We launched our HOME brand, ramped up Reno Love, and started camps for kids and students on our campus so hundreds of families could experience the love of Jesus. Although we still have families who prefer to worship from home (we miss you!), Christmas and Easter services are reaching max capacity and hundreds of people are in Home Groups doing life together. We're excited about what God's doing at this moment and for what He's calling us to.

80+

HOME GROUPS

900+

PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN HOME GROUPS

2,300
ACTIVE IN GRACE KIDS

2,500+

PEOPLE BAPTIZED

SINCE 2001

86,000+

CHRISTMAS EVE ATTENDANCE SINCE 2001







600+

COMPASSION KIDS SPONSORED

3,000+

COATS GIVEN AWAY

10,000+

SHOES GIVEN AWAY
THROUGH RENO LOVE

\$3 MILLION+

TOTAL YEAR-END GIVING SINCE 2014

8 HOPE HOUSES

SERVING 100+ PEOPLE A DAY





PRIMARY GOAL: 100% ENGAGEMENT



Our dream for For the One is that every person at Grace would acknowledge and declare Jesus is before all things in their lives. We are calling everyone to think differently about how we view all of our lives and consider this:

Is God getting the first and best of every part of us? Our thought life, our worship, our time, our finances...all of it?

Consider Paul's message to the church:

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and in earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:15-17

How should we respond to such an amazing reality? Do we have unsurrendered areas of our life? Does our faith in Jesus need to be revitalized? Have we given our very best for the One who gave us His very life?

We want every single person to take his or her next right step in discipleship and generosity through For the One.

Consider the generosity journey chart on the following page as you seek God through this. It's time for all of us to move forward.

THE JOURNEY OF GENEROSITY:



INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something, and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver is someone who decides to give something on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving as a disciple of Jesus. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well; it just requires more discipline.

PRIORITY GIVER

A Priority Giver is someone who understands the preeminence of Christ and that He is before all things - all things were created by Him, for Him, through Him and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and their saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving.

SURRENDERED GIVER

A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes the power of the Gospel and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Surrendered Giver is someone who gives in a way that changes them, in a way that reflects the totality of their resources belonging to God. A Surrendered Giver isn't just concerned with what they ARE giving, but is more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why, and they seek to honor God with 100 % of what He has given them, whether that means direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource.

ETERNAL GIVER

An Eternal Giver is someone who is thinking about the longer trail of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. An Eternal Giver makes decisions in the short term that have longer term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all in relation to their generosity capacity. An Eternal Giver is driven by the things of eternity, putting their hope in God and not in the things of this earth.

SECONDARY GOAL:

\$20 MILLION

Right now, Grace is responsible for the discipleship and care of well over 4,000 people who call our church home – worshiping at least occasionally either on campus or online.

WEEKLY SERVICES & LARGE GATHERINGS

Continued support and resources to provide relevant, excellent services each weekend to help families move toward Jesus and each other through worship, teaching, and community.

CURRENT MINISTRIES & LEADERSHIP/ STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Resources to support all Grace ministries, including new staff and leadership development and growth toward the future, likely neighborhood campuses.

CONTINUING DISCIPLESHIP

Continued support for Home Groups and other gatherings and programs to help people deepen their faith and understanding of God's Word, resulting in active obedience to what they learn.

SUPPORTING COUNSELING AND CARE MINISTRIES

Practical care for marriages, individuals, and families. Also, resources to love our community through our school partnerships and unforeseen tragedies.

EXTERNAL MISSIONS

Continued support for local and global evangelical missions. Last year we gave over 15% of our budget away to either global missions, local recovery or basic needs projects, or to organizations serving those in need.

RENO LOVE

Continued support for our city with practical help to nonprofit organizations who serve the people in our area. This includes special projects and our annual Reno Love Day where we have church by BEING the church and help clean up our city. We will also continue to partner with local schools to show the love of Jesus by helping them with various projects and financial support.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, GOD BEHIND BARS, ETC.

Continued support and growth for CR and GBB and other Care Ministries.



Of the \$20 million, For the One will invest \$13 million into our regular general budget over two years – sustaining and growing existing ministries to accomplish our mission of moving people toward Jesus and each other.

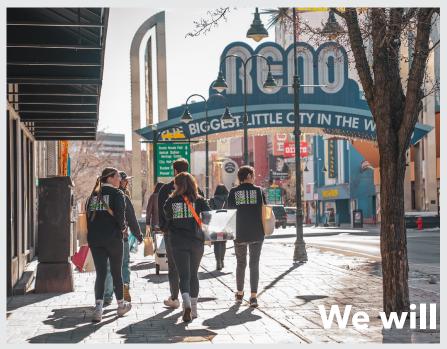
This amount includes \$11 million to cover our current budget, plus an additional \$2 million to invest in growth in mission and impact. Part of this additional vision includes leadership development and planning for neighborhood churches that we will launch as God leads. The purpose of these churches is twofold. They will provide more reach for the DNA of Grace Church to continue to point people to Jesus all through the valley, and they provide a growth engine for Grace. (Currently we are near capacity at our current campus mostly due to parking restrictions.)



FOR THE ONES who struggle with mental health

For the One will also invest \$7 million into tackling the problem of mental health in our city.

Addiction is real. Recovery is possible. For years, we have invested in this hope. We've seen many success stories ending in the ultimate redemption of people finding Jesus. There is still much work to be done. We've learned the secret to understanding addiction often starts with treating underlying mental health issues. With that in mind, we are focusing on dealing with the very real problem of mental health in our city.



In a 2022 study, Mental Health America found

the state of Nevada ranks 51st -

that's dead last - in the effectiveness of our mental health climate.

help change that.

In addition to building teams to provide more biblical counseling on campus, we will resource and fund For the One Counseling with licensed and pre-licensed professional practitioners who believe in the saving grace of Jesus. This will be our first gift to the community. We will serve people both inside and outside the church. Our prayer is to launch the center in 2024.

We will support and partner with other agencies who are fighting mental health problems with boots on the ground. As with HopeFirst, we will consider whoever God brings, consider their stability and impact in the city, and support as God leads.

Overall Ranking

An overall ranking 1-13 indicates lower prevalence of mental illness and higher rates of access to care. An overall ranking 39-51 indicates higher prevalence of mental illness and lower rates of access to care. The combined scores of all 15 measures make up the overall ranking. The overall ranking includes both adult and youth measures as well as prevalence and access to care measures.

The 15 measures that make up the overall ranking include:

- Adults With Any Mental Illness (AMI)
- 2. Adults With Substance Use Disorder in the Past Year
- 3. Adults With Serious Thoughts of Suicide
- 4. Youth with At Least One Major Depressive Episode (MDE) in the Past Year
- 5. Youth With Substance Use Disorder in the Past Year
- 6. Youth With Severe MDE
- 7. Adults With AMI Who Did Not Receive Treatment
- 8. Adults With AMI Reporting Unmet Need
- 9. Adults With AMI Who Are Uninsured
- Adults With Cognitive Disability Who Could Not See a Doctor Due to Costs
- 11. Youth With MDE Who Did Not Receive Mental Health Services
- 12. Youth With Severe MDE Who Received Some Consistent Treatment
- 13. Children With Private Insurance That Did Not Cover Mental or Emotional Problems
- 14. Students Identified With Emotional Disturbance for an Individualized Education Program
- 15. Mental Health Workforce Availability

The chart is a visual representation of the sum of the scores for each state. It provides an opportunity to see the difference between ranked states. For example, Massachusetts (ranked one) has a score that is higher than Illinois (ranked 12). Virginia (ranked 20) has a score that is closest to the average.

| Massachusetts | 1 |
|-------------------------|----|
| New Jersey | 2 |
| Pennsylvania | 3 |
| Connecticut | 4 |
| Vermont | 5 |
| New York | 6 |
| Wisconsin | 7 |
| Maine | 8 |
| Maryland | 9 |
| Minnesota | 10 |
| Rhode Island | 11 |
| Illinois | 12 |
| New Hampshire | 13 |
| Hawaii | 14 |
| Kentucky | 15 |
| District of Columbia | 16 |
| South Dakota | 17 |
| Michigan | 18 |
| Louisiana | 19 |
| Virginia | 20 |
| Montana | 21 |
| Delaware | 22 |
| lowa | 23 |
| California | 24 |
| Ohio | 25 |
| Nebraska | 26 |
| Georgia | 27 |
| Florida | 28 |
| North Dakota | 29 |
| South Carolina | 30 |
| North Carolina | 31 |
| Washington | 32 |
| Oklahoma | 33 |
| Tennessee | 34 |
| New Mexico | 35 |
| | 36 |
| Mississippi Colorado | 37 |
| West Virginia | |
| Arkansas | 38 |
| Missouri | 40 |
| Kansas | 41 |
| Indiana | 42 |
| Utah | 43 |
| Texas | 44 |
| Alabama | 45 |
| | _ |
| Oregon | 46 |
| Alaska | 47 |
| Wyoming | 48 |
| Arizona | 49 |
| Idaho | 50 |
| Nevada | 51 |

State

5.00

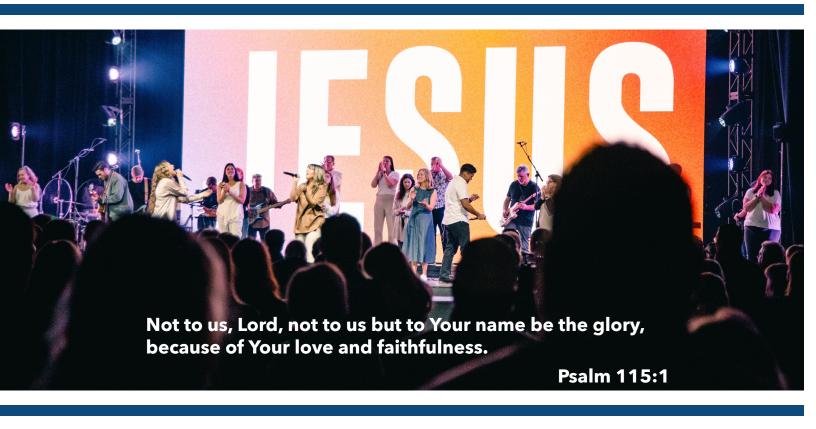
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-5.00

-10.00

10.00

15.00





In the past, Grace has had initiatives where giving went to a campaign that was over and above our current mission. Additional giving was designated to that fund and God used those kinds of campaigns in a huge way. (Think HopeFirst...) However, today He's calling us to a new way of growth, a new way of giving. It's called a One Fund.

Because For the One wraps around all that we give and do as a church, all giving goes to ONE MISSION - which ultimately is to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples by moving people closer to Jesus and each other. For this next season of ministry expansion, we will give our Grace gifts into one fund and celebrate the totality of our generosity growth as followers of Christ.

For the One giving will last for two years. In those two years, every gift given will go to the key components of this initiative: our general ministry budget, our expanded vision for growing our ministry through neighborhood churches, and investing heavily in Northern Nevada to fight the mental health crisis. These areas are explained in detail in the pages of this booklet.

COMMITMENT CARD

We've included a sample commitment card just like this one in the back of this book so you can begin to pray about your commitment and what that will mean for your journey with God. Please take time to think and pray through this.



TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Let it be something that inspires and challenges you toward greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom as we seek to give it all for the One.

| GIFTS NEEDED | TWO YEAR GIFT LEVEL | ANNUAL GIFT | MONTHLY GIFT | GIFT LEVEL TOTAL |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | \$2,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$83,333 | \$2,000,000 |
| 1 | \$1,000,000 | \$500,000 | \$41,667 | \$1,000,000 |
| 2 | \$750,000 | \$375,000 | \$31,250 | \$1,500,000 |
| 3 | \$500,000 | \$250,000 | \$20,833 | \$1,500,000 |
| 4 | \$250,000 | \$125,000 | \$10,417 | \$1,000,000 |
| 5 | \$150,000 | \$75,000 | \$6,250 | \$750,000 |
| 8 | \$100,000 | \$50,000 | \$4,167 | \$800,000 |
| 12 | \$75,000 | \$37,500 | \$3,125 | \$900,000 |
| 15 | \$65,000 | \$32,500 | \$2,708 | \$975,000 |
| 25 | \$50,000 | \$25,000 | \$2,083 | \$1,250,000 |
| 35 | \$35,000 | \$17,500 | \$1,458 | \$1,225,000 |
| 50 | \$25,000 | \$12,500 | \$1,042 | \$1,250,000 |
| 75 | \$15,000 | \$7,500 | \$625 | \$1,125,000 |
| 125 | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$417 | \$1,250,000 |
| 175 | \$7,500 | \$3,750 | \$313 | \$1,312,500 |
| 250 | \$5,000 | \$2,500 | \$208 | \$1,250,000 |
| MANY | \$2,500 | \$1,250 | \$104 | \$912,500 |
| TOTAL G | FT GOAL | | | \$20,000,000 |

MESSAGE NOTES

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

Colossians 1:15-20

WEEK ONE

Colossians 1:15-20

HOME GROUP STUDY

WEEK ONE

PLAY VIDEO

Play the Week 1 teaching and testimony video from fortheone.co/homegroups or by using the QR code. Share reflections from the video afterward.



READ

Colossians 1:15-20

UNDERSTAND

This letter to the Colossians was written to warn believers against a big heresy of this day - the heresy that conflicted the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Heretics told believers they needed something more than their relationship with Jesus to bring them to a genuine spiritual experience.

The false teachers in Colossae, like the false teachers of our own day, would not deny the importance of Jesus Christ. They would give Him prominence but not preeminence. In their view, Jesus was one of many beings that came from God and through which men could reach God. It was this claim Paul spoke against in this passage.

You must remember, however, the Colossians received this letter from a man - Paul - whom they had never met. This man was in prison, and he was contradicting almost everything they were being taught from other teachers. They knew Paul had been involved in leading Epaphras (their pastor) to faith in Christ. However, the false teachers in Colossae had been causing doubts in the people's minds and discrediting Paul.

Anticipating this situation, Paul spends some time in this passage writing about himself and explaining his ministry - sharing the Gospel, suffering for these Colossians and interceding for the believers.

DISCUSS

| REFLECT | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|
| | 6. As you think about the For the One initiative and a generosity challenge God might have for you in this season, is there something you are putting "before all things" instead of Christ? | | | |
| | 5. What about this passage changes the way you see your resources and stewardship? | | | |
| | 4. What are the implications of Christ being preeminent as it relates to our generosity? | | | |
| | 3. Why is it so significant that Christ is preeminent before all things? | | | |
| | 2. In light of the heresies of that day, it was important to Paul that the church know the truth about who Christ is. How did Paul describe Christ in this passage? | | | |
| | 1. Have you ever made a decision and said to your friend or to your spouse, "If I/ we make this decision, some things are going to have to change?" What was that decision, and why was it a driver of other things? | | | |

What are your thoughts and feelings as we head into this new generosity campaign? Spend time as a group in prayer for the things you just shared.

What's This All About?

We started a whole new campaign that could quite literally change your life. That's not meant to sound dramatic, but it's true. If you're able to declare Christ before all things in your life, really submit to His full authority first before anything else; your life is going to change. That doesn't mean life is going to get easier or that all of a sudden you'll end up with the perfect job.

The fact is, your life might get harder. Priorities will need to change, and you will likely get stretched out of your comfort zone. So, you need to ask yourself: Do I really want to put Christ first, or do I want to keep living the way I am?

The simple truth is Jesus didn't save you to have an easy life; He saved you so He could bring you to life. And when Jesus brings you to life, He brings the fullest life you can imagine.

The journey you're starting right now is not about being a "better Christian."

It's entirely about loving Jesus more.

If that's what you're looking to do, you'll want to start by identifying the areas in life that are keeping you from this change.

Oftentimes in our lives when we need to make a change (take health, for example), we need to start by identifying the problem areas. If you're looking to drop some pounds, nutrition is a great place to start, because what you put in your body affects your entire body.

The same principle works in our faith. If you really want to live a life where Jesus is first, you need to figure out what is currently taking His place. It's not always an issue of sinful behavior that keeps us from putting Jesus first; sometimes it's just misplaced priorities.

WEEK 1

Engage

1. What was the first thing you thought about today (after thinking about going back to sleep)?

2. List the areas of your life that get the most attention. (The areas where you intentionally use your time, energy, resources; the things you're reading articles or books about; etc.)

3. What are the things that keep you from connecting with Jesus on a regular basis?

Take a few minutes and read Colossians 1:15-20. Take this time to engage with Paul's words; read it as many times as you need to before moving on.

In the verses you just read, Paul makes it painstakingly clear that ALL THINGS in creation were made by Christ, for Christ, and because of that He is over all things and deserves to be first before all things.

What Consumes Your Heart?

On Day One of this week you spent time identifying areas where you have misplaced priorities. Today, we're going to explore why.

You, like everyone else, were created uniquely by God (Psalm 139: 13-16), and that goes beyond your eye color, your height or the amount of hair you currently have. It plays out even in your areas of passion. And those areas of passion are often the things that take priority in your life. They prompt you to watch video after video on YouTube or chase experience after experience. And that's ok; God created you to have interests and passions not everyone else has. This was part of His plan to make you stand out from everyone else.

For the Apostle Paul, this played out in the way that he dedicated his life to serving God. Paul had a passion for God, and it was that passion that led him to persecute Christians prior to his own experience with Jesus (Acts 9). It wasn't until Paul truly submitted his life and his passions to Christ that he was able to be used by God to build the body of Christ. Paul's passion for God consumed his heart to the point that he saw no other way to live his life without giving everything he had to serve God.

The problem comes when we put these passions in front of the One who wired us for them.

It's not always our passions that drive us though; sometimes it's duty or responsibility. Again, there is nothing wrong with prioritizing your family or working diligently. On the contrary, scripture has a lot to say about the importance of both of those. It makes it clear we're supposed to care for our families and also work hard.

But again, the problem comes when we put our duties or responsibilities ahead of the One who has entrusted them to us. But why do we do this?

Why do we have such a hard time actually seeing Christ first in all these things?

The simple answer – we focus on what's in front of us.

We focus on our kids because they're incredibly important, and they're right in front of us.

We focus on our careers because we want to achieve what has been asked of us.

We focus on our passions because they make us feel alive.

These priorities are gifts, but they are only good when they come under the supremacy of Christ.

Perhaps what we need is a better lens through which to see the things that are right in front of us.

Read Colossians 1:15-17.

In the verses you just read, Paul poetically conveys the truth that Christ existed before all things, and He was actively creating everything. This includes your own faith. Let that truth sink in; He initiated your faith long before you knew of Him.

1. Look back at your list from day one. Why do you give so much time and attention to the areas you listed?

2. What difference does it make to view your list in light in this passage? (What does it look like for your priorities to come under the authority of Christ?)

3. Use two of your priorities from day one to work through the exercise on the next page:

| Priority | When it's Not Surrendered | When it's Surrendered |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Advancing in your career | Overworking, needing recognition in the workplace, cutting corners to please your supervisors, failures are devastating, perfectionism. | Using leadership opportunities and gifting to reflect Christ in the workplace, bring out the best in others, teachable, boundaries. |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

4. What is one thing you can do today to start surrendering these priorities to Jesus' Lordship?

Love

There are few words that stir as many emotions as the word "love." And despite the fact that this word is so evocative, it gets thrown around in such a way that we sometimes lose the understanding of what it means to love something or someone. We hear and use the word so often that in some settings it has lost the weight of its real meaning.

We use the same word to convey how we feel about a spouse, children, friends, dogs and tacos.

Using love as flippantly as we do is bound to muddle our understanding of the word. The true depth of love is only felt within action.

When we turn to scripture to understand what love actually means, things start to get clearer. Even though there are multiple words used for "love" in the New Testament (one for romantic love, one for brotherly love/friendship and one for unconditional love), all of them require action. That's because the actions (or inactions) that accompany our words show the depth of meaning or the weight contained within those words. This is why John 3:16 is the most memorized verse in all the Bible, because it shows that God really loves His creation enough to back His words up with the greatest demonstration of love the world will ever know.

Over the last few days you've identified what has been taking priority in your life; today, you're going to do something about that. If you're ready to make the necessary changes to put Christ first in all things, it's going to require more than just saying it. It's going to require more than making the decision and telling someone about it. You're going to have to back it up with your actions.

Remember, this is not about making a decision to "be a better Christian." This is about a personal conviction to love Jesus more. And the actions that accompany our words of affection for Christ will show others the depth of our love for Christ and the level of our faith in Him.

Read Colossians 1:18-22

In the verses you read, Paul shows the fullness of God dwelled in Christ, and because the absolute fullness dwelled within Him, He was able to accomplish what He did "through His blood, shed on the cross (NIV)." Paul brilliantly shows us the action that accompanied the declaration of God's love for us by sending His son. Then he takes it one step further to help us understand what our position was before Christ's death and resurrection and what our position is after.

1. God demonstrated His love to us through Christ's sacrifice. Choose a priority from day two's exercise. What would it look like to demonstrate your love to God through this priority?

2. In verse 22, Paul describes our standing before God as reconciled, holy, without blemish, and free from accusation - all because of what Jesus accomplished for us. Knowing this is a result of God's love in action, reflect on which word means the most to you and why.

3. What personal challenges do you face as you try to love God through your priorities?

Our Response

On Day Three, you reflected on the truth that love requires action from the one who makes the declaration. The other side of that coin is that it also requires a response from the person to whom the declaration was made. When someone tells you they love you, you are faced with two choices: 1) receive and reciprocate that love back to them, or 2) deflect that love and depart.

We see this all throughout the Bible. From the very beginning of creation God has been declaring His love for His creation and especially for those He made in His own image. Throughout the Old Testament, we see how God's chosen people respond to His declarations of love. Regardless of their choice, God continued to make His affection known to them.

Fast forward a few thousand years and you're faced with the same choice. When you look at your actions, have you chosen to receive and reciprocate God's love back to Him or have you chosen to deflect and depart?

In Paul's eyes, the clearest response to God's declaration of love through Christ is total surrender to the ways of Christ and submission to His plans for you.

The temptation when reading that there's only one proper response to the Gospel is to think that the response looks the same for every person. But you've been given a unique story within a unique context. When our passions, our careers and our responsibilities are brought under God, He uses those things to advance His kingdom and love others well.

So, becoming a servant of Christ does not mean disregarding the people and the responsibilities God has placed in your life, but rather striving to live your life the way Jesus did by reflecting His love into a broken and hurting world by modeling the character of Christ in every area of your life.

Read Colossians 1:22-23

Paul received and reciprocated the love of God, and, in doing so, he viewed himself as a servant to the Gospel. What does it look like to be a servant of the Gospel in:

Your home

Your work/school

Your neighborhood

Your church

Look back to Day One of this week. Have you seen any growth in your thoughts and priorities?

How do you feel about the changes or lack thereof?

Intro to the Weekend

You've spent a lot of time this week reflecting on why Christ should be put first in every area of life and what it looks like for you to respond in love to Him. Read Paul's words about what putting Christ first in all areas looked like for him.

Read through Colossians 1:24-29 slowly, following the instructions below.

Before you read: Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to meet with you and speak to you.

As you read: Be attentive to what stirs in you as you read Paul's words and mark the words or phrases that jump out at you.

After you read: Spend a few more moments in conversation with God about what you just read.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.

Colossians 1:24-29

MESSAGE NOTES

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.

Colossians 1:21-29

WEEK TWO

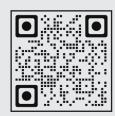
Colossians 1:21-29

HOME GROUP STUDY

WEEK TWO

PLAY VIDEO

Play the Week 2 teaching and testimony video from fortheone.co/homegroups or by using the QR code. Share reflections from the video afterward.



READ

Colossians 1:24-29

DISCUSS

- 1. Joyful sacrifice means giving up something you love for something you love even more. When is a time you did this and what motivated you?
- 2. God calls us to steward every area of our life, including our time, resources, and relationships. How could you arrange your life in such a way that you are intentionally stewarding what God has given you?
- 3. What can we learn from Paul about dealing with suffering?
- 4. For the One is all about discipleship and becoming more like Jesus. What can we learn about discipleship from Paul's example with the Colossians?

DISCUSS

- 5. What is the goal of discipleship? How has your discipleship affected your generosity?
- 6. Read Colossians 1:28-29 again. What do you think it means to strenuously contend in discipleship?

REFLECT

Paul makes it clear that the suffering he endured was his sacrifice to fulfill the commission of God's Word. What might God be asking you to sacrifice in this For the One journey?

Spend time as a group praying for the humility and courage to sacrifice what He is placing on your heart.

Focal Points

Let's check in from where we started last week. What was the first thing you thought of when you woke up today? What was the last thing you thought about before you fell asleep last night?

As you begin week 2 of this campaign, we need to make something clear. Acknowledging Christ first in your life is not always easy; in fact, it will often be difficult to put Him first.

Why?

Because the very moment you choose to follow Christ you are choosing to live your life differently. Not only does the Christian life differ from culture, it often opposes it. This happens in a number of ways, but at its most basic level it means shifting your focus from self-first to Jesus-first.

Think about it this way: You've certainly seen and probably taken some bad pictures throughout your life. Pictures where in the moment you think, "This is perfect!" Only to look at it afterward and realize the focus was on the wrong thing.

This is why focal points are so vitally important. Whether it's in photography or any other visual art, if the focal point is wrong, it can quickly ruin the viewer's experience. This is because intentional focal points bring clarity.

Choosing to put Christ first in all things means choosing to make Jesus the focal point of your life. But the world we live in constantly throws distractions at us to take our focus off Jesus. That is why intentionally living a Jesus- focused life is so difficult. Here's the encouraging thing: The more you make Jesus your focal point, the more clarity He will bring to your life. The things that matter to Jesus will start to matter to you more and more.

This is where Paul lived his life. This is why Paul was able to endure such hardship throughout his ministry. He understood living a Jesus-first life meant shifting his focus from "me first" to "me last" - putting Jesus and others ahead of himself

(Philippians 2:3-4). Take a few minutes and read Colossians 1:15-20. Take this time to engage with Paul's words; read it as many times as you need to before moving on.

In the verses you just read, Paul makes it painstakingly clear that ALL THINGS in creation were made by Christ for Christ, and because of that, He is over all things and deserves to be first before all things.

Engage

1. What was the first thing you thought about today (after thinking about going back to sleep)?

Opportunity Costs

Today you're going to make countless decisions, and every one of those decisions will come at a cost. It may not be a financial cost, and it may be an insignificant decision, but it's true - every single decision you make has a cost.

That cost is an opportunity cost. For example, choosing tacos for lunch means not choosing something else. While this may seem trivial when it comes to lunch, opportunity cost has a massive implication when you think about your walk with Christ. This is why focal points are so important, because as they bring clarity to life they also bring clarity to our choices.

As you discovered yesterday, the moment you chose to follow Christ meant your focus needed to shift. Choosing to shift your focus from your own desires to Christ's desires for you will require sacrifice.

It may mean sacrificing a particular vacation or specific house in order to live within your means. It may mean sacrificing events to create space for rest in your life. It may mean sacrificing a promotion that would require too many nights away from home. The list could go on and on, but the truth stands: Living a Jesus-first life means making the sometimes-hard choices and sacrificing what you desire in order to live under the supremacy of Christ.

When Paul wrote the words in Colossians 1:24-29, he understood this principle. He knew choosing to be a servant of Christ meant forfeiting his own desires. That is why he was able to write, "Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you...for the sake of [Christ's] body, which is the church. I have become its servant... (Colossians 1:24-25a)."

For Paul, relinquishing his desires and his control over his life was absolutely worth the cost of declaring Christ first in his life.

In Luke 14, Jesus cautions us to count the cost of following Him. In this passage He uses fairly common examples to illustrate the opportunity cost involved with choosing to be His disciple. Read Luke 14:25-33 and answer the following:

In light of what Jesus said in these verses, what is the cost you have paid to follow Jesus?

How has it been worth it?

What opportunities are you actively or passively choosing to put 3. ahead of Christ?

The Heart of Sacrifice

In the passage you read on Day Two, Jesus speaks very clearly about the opportunity cost of being His disciple. He essentially says, "Love me more than anything else or don't bother." That's a drastic statement, and while there may be a bit of hyperbole in it, we see this dedication in action throughout the New Testament. This is why Paul wrote in the letter to the Philippians, "For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain (Philippians 1:21)." He understood the cost of following Jesus; he knew preaching the Gospel in the first century would bring physical pain and suffering. While knowing that, he still chose to make the sacrifice of himself for the sake of Christ. This begs the question: What's at the heart of sacrifice?

The word sacrifice gets used a lot today, and there are images that come to mind every time we hear it. We think of Olympic athletes who make sacrifices to become the best in the world at their sport; we think of people who sacrifice stable careers to create something new from scratch. As a culture we love these stories. We love hearing about someone sacrificing comfort to achieve something great. These stories are stories that inspire and drive us to achieve. But these stories only give us a glimpse of what sacrifice really is.

True sacrifice, on the other hand, is the kind of sacrifice that puts others first. Think of military personnel, first responders and countless other unsung heroes across the world. This is the kind of sacrifice we see modeled in scripture. But that doesn't answer the question about the basis of sacrifice. If sacrifice is giving up something you value for the sake of something you deem more valuable or worthy, then the heart of sacrifice must be trust. Trust in your evaluations that the desired outcome is far more valuable than whatever you choose to sacrifice. In Paul's case, it was to trust Jesus really was who He said He was. It was trust that building up God's kingdom was worth the physical, mental and emotional pain he would suffer to play his part.

While biblical sacrifice may not require danger or imprisonment for you, it will always lead to building up the body of Christ by serving others. You can't practice biblical – Christ-like – sacrifice without this being the result.

In Philippians 3:4-7, Paul gives his credentials for having a reason to boast. He could boast about his heritage, his education, his zeal and his adherence to Jewish law. But he makes it clear none of that is worth anything in relation to knowing and submitting to Christ. Read Colossians 2:1-5 and respond to the following prompts.

1. Who in your life have you seen consistently model a biblical understanding of sacrifice?

2. Why is that kind of sacrifice so attractive?

3. When you look back over the course of your life, when have you had to make a significant sacrifice for another person?

4. God is frequently inviting us to sacrifice for the sake of the kingdom. What is something you could sacrifice to put others first?

Put it on the Altar

On Day Three of this week, you discovered biblical sacrifice is preceded by trust. You also learned biblical sacrifice will always result in the building up of the body of Christ through serving others. As great as all of that sounds, it's not something that comes easily. Sacrifice by nature involves pain and struggle. That pain comes in the form of sacrificing ambition or setting aside long held dreams in order to build up the church. That struggle comes from relinquishing the illusion of control we hold so tightly to thinking that we are the masters of our fate. Putting these sacrifices on the altar is no small feat. It takes equal amounts of intentionality to put them there and not pick them back up. It takes steadfastness to turn away from dreams you've had for decades. Most of all, it takes faithfulness to follow Christ obediently.

Making the necessary sacrifices to love Jesus more means that once you let go of control of your life, you give control entirely over to Christ. But as you read on Day One of this week, choosing to really follow Christ will often put you in uncomfortable scenarios. Scenarios where you need to stand for what is right according to God and scripture, not the shifting philosophies of culture or going out of your way to serve someone in desperate need that others choose not to see.

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

This is the point of living a sacrificial life, to be transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit in such a way that every aspect of your life is an act of worship to God. This type of sacrificial lifestyle only comes through faithfulness and trust that God does have your best at heart, despite what your circumstance may tell you.

From the very beginning of this journey the point has not been to be a better Christian, it is to love Jesus more. The more you love Jesus the more you will be transformed by His power. And transformation in Christ will always lead to a life of sacrifice.

While loving Jesus more does in fact lead to a life of sacrifice for the kingdom and the service of others, Jesus doesn't expect you to go from zero to all-in immediately. When you look at His interactions with people in scripture, He often moves at the

pace they need. And despite the fact that we have a rather fastpaced culture, He understands sustainable change and growth come incrementally.

Action

On Day Three of this week you identified a sacrifice you can make to build the church and serve others. Today you're going to put that into action.

Here are some examples of action steps to take:

If you're choosing to sacrifice a vacation or major purchase for the purpose of the kingdom, consider transferring that money to a "generosity account." This is an account where you save money strictly to bless others/give away. If you're giving up overly packed schedules to be generous with your time, put specific and repeated times on your calendar when you will go serve and invite others to come with you.

On Day Three you identified something you could sacrifice to put others first. What changes will you make today to live this out?

We are more likely to follow through with a commitment when we tell someone about it. Choose the person you want to ask to hold you accountable. When will you tell them about the changes you're going to make?

Intro to the Weekend

You've spent a lot of time this week reflecting on the importance of focusing on Christ rather than the world around you and also what it really means to sacrifice for the sake of Christ's kingdom. Today you're going to spend your time reading about what focus and sacrifice can lead to when you live as if Christ is first in all things.

Read through Colossians 2:8-3:5 slowly, following the instructions below.

Before you read: Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to meet with you and speak to you.

As you read: Be attentive to what stirs in you as you read Paul's words and mark the words or phrases that jump out at you.

After you read: Spend a few more moments in conversation with God about what you just read.

"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and

authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)-according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

Colossians 2:8-3:5

MESSAGE NOTES

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Colossians 2:8-10

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:1-5

WEEK THREE

Colossians 2:8-3:5

HOME GROUP STUDY

WEEK THREE

PLAY VIDEO

Play the Week 3 teaching and testimony video from fortheone.co/homegroups or by using the QR code. Share reflections from the video afterward.



READ

Colossians 2:8 - 3:5

DISCUSS

- 1. What is something you are "all in" on, as in fully committed to? How is your life shaped because you are "all in" on that thing?
- 2. A goal of the For the One initiative is for us to put Jesus first in our lives. What changes have you made over the last few weeks to pursue this?
- 3. Have you ever felt stagnant in your faith? What consequences have you seen in those seasons?

DISCUSS

4. "But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit." (Romans 7:6, NLT). What does it mean to be released from the law? How are you "free to serve in the new way" as it relates to generosity?

5. How does the world keep us from exhibiting reckless generosity for Christ? How can we fight against that in our For the One commitments? How can we use our For the One commitments to fight against those tactics?

REFLECT

Is there anything in your life you would consider an "indulgence of the flesh" that you may be falsely believing is "no big deal" because of a legalistic act you use to combat against it? Be as honest as you can.

The Progression

As we've done before, let's work on our mindfulness. What was the first thing you thought of when you woke up today? Or, what was the last thing you thought about before you fell asleep last night?

Read Colossians 2:8-3:5.

Much of last week was spent reflecting upon sacrifice and what this could look like in our lives. You may recall that trust is the bedrock of sacrifice. A sacrifice cannot be forced -- that's called coercion -- it has to be willingly given. I'm sure you can think of times in your life where someone asked you to "sacrifice" for them, but you were never actually given a choice. That's not a sacrifice. Sacrifice has to be chosen, and it can only be chosen when trust is present. And so, we have to ask ourselves, is God trustworthy?

It can be really easy to look at the Christian life and think: This looks like a lot of loss. Do the gains really compare to all that is given up?

Have you felt this tension before? The act of living so counter-culturally means you'll be rubbing up against cultural norms all the time. Decisions you make will frequently be questioned, scorned or laughed at. Daily, God calls us to take up our cross and follow Him; this command literally means to die to self. And we're called to this every day! And so, again we ask, is God trustworthy?

Is the life He promises really worth it? How can so much sacrifice lead to so much life?

God makes lots of promises to us in this week's passage from Colossians. We'll see a progression where sacrifice leads us from death to life to freedom to fullness. The promise we'll be building up to is that of fullness. As you read in verse 10, the life of a Christian is a life that leads to fullness. This is a promise that we can cling to, because no matter how many times we ask, the answer will always be yes, God is trustworthy.

1. Going off of your first reading of this passage, how do you think sacrifice leads to fullness?

2. Have you ever questioned God's trustworthiness? What usually leads you to these moments?

Death to Life

Read Colossians 2:8-15.

There is something incredible and supernatural about a person being raised from the dead. The body has an amazing ability to fight for life when it's still living, but take away the beating heart and breath-filled lungs and the body is powerless. A person who is dead is completely at the mercy of external forces (a defibrillator, nurse, coffin) for any changes to befall it. Death removes every sense of control, ability and will.

And so it is with the spiritual death that we are all tied to by our sin-wrecked existence. The fall of man didn't bring bad behavior into the picture, it brought in an awful new reality: spiritual deadness. And just like a physically dead body has no ability to resurrect itself, the spiritually dead person is powerless to breathe life into him/herself.

But don't we try?

We spend our lives thinking we'll be able to fill that massive space between death and life. My good behavior surely makes me more worthy of God's forgiveness. My generous giving has certainly earned me God's love. But here's the problem: a salvation based on our behavior is no salvation at all, for it completely eliminates the need.

When we wrap our minds around the reality of what our God has done for us, what His enormous love has accomplished for us, then we will see just how much our lives are tied to that gift. Our resources, talents, influence and relationships are enveloped in the beauty of our resurrected life. And this will begin to shift something inside of us. A slow, arduous, relentless shift will begin as the loving grace of God makes its way into every area of your life --your home, your work, your finances, your recreation. You will start to view all of it in light of God's great mercy. And you won't be able to help but surrender these areas to God because you'll realize He didn't just add a fresh coat of paint to these things, He added life.

"But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions -- it is by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4-5

- 1. Consider the priorities you've spent the last few weeks reflecting on. How has your relationship with Christ brought life to those things?
- 2. Put simply, we try to control our lives because we don't trust God. What in your life still feels hard to surrender to Christ? How could letting go of control actually lead to life?
- 3. Reflect on how God has changed the way you think about, experience and live out your priorities. What more could He want to do in you and for you through the continued surrender of those?

Life to Freedom

Read Colossians 2:16-23.

In our life, we will receive a never-ending parade of messages telling us we need this or that to be happy, healthy and thriving. We are told this product, that ideology, their adventure is what's missing from our lives. Just get yourself one of these and suddenly you won't feel so empty, uncertain, fearful or unhappy. Unfortunately, some of these messages have come from the church. That's what we read the church in Colossians was facing as Paul wrote his letter, and it's what many of us have also heard throughout our lives. Do this, and you'll be saved. Mess up here, and God won't accept you anymore. God is only pleased when you are saying these prayers, abstaining from these foods and participating in these church functions.

But Jesus came to remove the burdens of our world, not to make them heavier. The trouble is, we get so caught up in what we need in order to be content that we find ourselves in an endless cycle of striving and yet never being satisfied. In Christ, we are freed not just from sin's power but from striving for all the world tells us we need to be happy. And we are freed from the fear that we're less than, unaccepted or bad for stepping off that cycle.

The Gospel frees us to actually experience contentment and satisfaction in the kingdom of God, and to break away from striving for significance, purpose and happiness.

How we spend our time, money and energy is no longer driven by the need for significance and acceptance, but by a love for God that compels us to honor Him with all that we have and in all that we do.

"In modern Western society, freedom means autonomy. We dangerously believe freedom means, 'I can do anything I want.' But scripture authors never describe freedom this way, they describe it like this: Something used to have a hold of me, but a better power released me from it and now that better power has a hold of me." -Steve Cuss, Managing Leadership Anxiety

We are now able to spend our lives for the glory of God and the good of others, freed from the burden of never having or being enough.

In your life, what have you chased after thinking it will satisfy you, only to learn it was just a part of the never-ending cycle?

How does a kingdom perspective (acknowledging God above all things) lead to freedom?

Freedom to Fullness

Read Colossians 3:1-5.

"Grace isn't opposed to effort, but to earning," said Dallas Willard. We've gotten it into our heads that grace and works are enemies. We think the gift of grace means we can throw our works out the window because, by golly, I am saved by grace alone! And yet, when we read scripture, we see God not only prepared us to do good work, but He wants to see that good work develop in us for our whole life until Christ returns (Eph. 2:10, Phil. 1:6).

As we've chewed on this passage in Colossians, we've seen a very real shift happens in us when we put God first and live within His kingdom. We've seen God breathe life into the things that were once dead and empty. We've experienced Him free us from the burdens that the world loves to place on us. And yet, there's more: a fullness in Christ yet to be obtained.

Just as a surrender took place when you first took Christ at His word and entered the family of God, a daily surrender to His love and lordship will now be necessary to walk through life as a disciple of Christ. Some days that surrender will feel like joy incarnate, and other days that surrender feels like the hardest decision you've ever made. And yet, the promise: surrender that leads to fullness.

And what makes this surrender so challenging at times (and especially at the beginning)? It involves death. A death of the old self. The old self that cared more about gain than giving must be put to death. The old self that withheld love in conflict instead of extending forgiveness and love. The old self that lied, cheated, cut corners, flattered, gossiped and resented without much thought. It's the old self that we're very familiar with that we're called to lay down.

"Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to Him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."

Romans 6:13-14

Why do we do this? True freedom (or fullness) comes in forging a new path and moving into a new reality. A path, forged long ago by Christ himself, bringing all who would follow it into a new reality which claims that life is found when we come to the end of ourselves.

And so, "set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden in Christ." (v. 2, 3)

Engage

1. Consider your day-to-day life. Where is it not reflecting Christ? Why do you think that is?

2. With this new awareness, what do you need to put to death in order for Christ's life to be reflected in yours?

3. In the space below, write a prayer of surrender. Ask God for the faith to put your old self to death today and to be filled by the fullness of Christ. Over the next seven days, begin your day praying this prayer. Perhaps you can put it on your mirror, phone background or fridge as a daily reminder.

Intro to the Weekend

Throughout this week, you have seen a beautiful progression a Christian is taken on by the power of the Gospel: death to life to freedom to fullness. One promise that makes the Gospel so wonderful is there is always more. More grace, more depth, more freedom, more of God. Seek more. We are recipients of a good and full life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Read through Colossians 3:16-24 slowly, following the instructions below.

Before you read: Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to meet with you and speak to you.

As you read: Be attentive to what stirs in you as you read Paul's words and mark the words or phrases that jump out at you.

After you read: Spend a few more moments in conversation with God about what you just read.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eyeservice, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:16-24

MESSAGE NOTES

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:12-17

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

WEEK FOUR

Colossians 3:12-24

HOME GROUP STUDY

WEEK FOUR

PLAY VIDEO

Play the Week 4 teaching and testimony video from fortheone.co/homegroups or by using the QR code. Share reflections from the video afterward.



READ

Colossians 3:12-24

DISCUSS

- 1. Would you say you struggle with people-pleasing, or would you say you struggle with not caring enough about the considerations of others?
- 2. How have you seen this play out in your generosity with others (community involvement, serving at church, giving of your resources, etc.)?
- 3. Why does Paul put such an emphasis on our earthly relationships and what do they reveal about our relationship with Christ?

DISCUSS

| 4. Because we were created to be in community, Paul gives guidance for how to exhibit Christ in every relationship. Read aloud Col. 3:23-24. What are the benefits of putting Christ first in every relationship and not working for the approval of "human masters"? |
|---|
| 5. What is a past decision you've made that is impacting your generosity today? |
| 6. Next weekend will be the last message in the For the One series, which means its commitment weekend. What specifically might be holding you back from truly declaring Jesus is first in your generosity and in your life, and how can you surrender it to God? |

REFLECT

Share with the group how they can pray for you as you prepare to make your For the One commitment. Spend time intentionally praying together about how your group will engage with this campaign, and also for 100% engagement from the Grace family. Pray God would be honored, glorified, and praised as a result of our commitments and in declaring Jesus is first!

The Progression

In Week One, we examined our priorities and challenged you to set aside the first 15 minutes of your day to spend time with the Lord.

- Have you been disciplined in making this your first priority?
- If not, will you recommit to making time with the Lord your first priority for the next three weeks?
- Have you noticed any changes in your life as you've started each day in the Word?

In Week Three, we looked at what it means to live in the fullness of Christ's freedom. We've been challenged to live a life all in for Jesus - surrendering our time, talents and treasures to advance His kingdom.

This week, we will look at the Christian home. When you declare Christ first in your life, everything begins to look more like Jesus - your marriage, your singleness, your parenting, your obedience to your parents, your work life, your home life, everything. There is no area of your life where the impact of putting Jesus first is not evident. Take a few minutes to read Colossians 3:12-24. Take your time and highlight or write down anything that sticks out to you.

Paul begins verse 12 with a list of characteristics to put on now that you have made Christ first: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love, peace and thankfulness. He instructs believers to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. And with this in mind, he gives instructions for the Christian home.

Paul urges us to do everything in the name of the Lord and that whatever we do is for the Lord and not for men. As God's chosen ones, our relationships should reflect generosity, and you can be sure that if you're living a life of generosity then you are leaving a powerful legacy.

Engage

Look at verses 12-14. What is one characteristic the Lord is bringing to your attention?

How would seeing more of this characteristic impact your relationships?

Action

Now that you have identified you need to see more

in your life, ask the Lord to grow you in this area by giving you opportunities to practice it this week. And then be mindful of those opportunities.

Refine Me

Relationships are refining. They just are. There is no way around it as believers.

Refinement is the process of improving something by removing impurities and unwanted materials. (Sounds a lot like putting off the old and putting on the new, yes?) When sinful people (you and I) enter into relationships, there's bound to be messiness. The old self loves to be inserted into the center of everything:

- If you were angry, it was because someone...
- If you relapsed in your addiction, it was because someone...
- If you lied, it was because someone...
- If you didn't follow through on a commitment, it was because someone...

We often look to others as the cause of our pain, disappointment and unhappiness. But what if in the midst of the brokenness, we asked God to refine us. Instead of focusing on what you wish your loved one would change, what if you focused on asking God to change something in you?

If we have put on the new self, then we will allow the Lord to use our relationships to refine us. It's important to note, Paul is not instructing us to stay in abusive relationships. People who exhibit godly character will not abuse. Knowing that, Paul takes great care to outline the godly characteristics we are to put on before he addresses guidelines for relationships. So, with compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love, peace and thankfulness at the front of our minds, let's dive in.

Read Colossians 3:18-22.

Engage

How does the context of verses 12-17 affect the way you read and respond to verses 18-22?

Do any of these instructions for Christian households seem especially difficult to you? Why is that?

Work through the following exercise using the characteristic you chose on Day One of this week:

| Godly characteristic | Relationship | How this relationship would look different |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| Meekness/ Gentleness | Parent | Offering gentle answers when |
| | | |
| | | |

My Inheritance

Day Two of this week may have been difficult to work through if there are relationships in your life where you experience disappointment and pain. It doesn't come naturally to respond with generosity and a Christ-first attitude when we feel wronged. But there is hope and encouragement for believers who live generously without any expectations in return.

Read Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

How freeing to know that everything I do, everything, is for the Lord, not for men:

- Showing compassion to someone who has made poor life choices that brought about their broken circumstances
- Showing kindness to a customer who has been extremely rude
- Choosing a humble response to your boss whom you often disagree with
- Forgiving someone who hasn't asked for your forgiveness
- Loving someone who has been cold and distant

And not only is it for the Lord, but He is also storing up the work I do in His name as my inheritance and reward because He is a generous God. He embodies the ultimate act of generosity in His gift of salvation through Christ's work on the cross. He withholds no good thing from us even though we deserve a life separated from God for eternity. We bring nothing, yet He generously offers us everything. This radically, generous, unconditional love should motivate how we love others.

Action

Christ being first in our relationships is a daily choice of surrender, and some days may feel harder than others, but be confident that everything you do can be done for the Lord.

Recognizing Christ first in your home and relationships might look like...

- Going to marriage counseling
- Opening your home to single moms or refugees
- Eliminating extracurricular commitments that are putting a strain on your family
- Responding in humility and grace when someone snaps at you

What are three relationships where you can choose to put Christ first this week and how will you do that? Use the spaces below.

| Relationship | Attribute needed | Your action | Potential outcome |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Children | Patience | Start morning routine earlier | My children can obey knowing they can trust me |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Legacy

All week long we've looked at relationships through the lens of Jesus first. Each day is an opportunity to build a legacy for God's kingdom or for your little earthly kingdom. You're storing up for an eternal inheritance, and part of that inheritance is the legacy you leave for Christ.

Perhaps, when we think about legacy, we think too narrowly of only our immediate family, but you have the opportunity to leave a legacy in every area of your life - community, workplace, school, church and beyond. Consider Corrie Ten Boom's story.

Corrie didn't ever marry or have children. Her father died nine days after Nazi imprisonment in South Holland, and her sister died six months after arriving at Ravensbrück concentration camp. And yet Corrie chose forgiveness because Christ forgave first. She traveled the world - including through Germany - to share about God's forgiveness. And it was in Germany where she met one of the guards from Ravensbrück and extended a hearty "with all my heart!" when the guard asked for Corrie's forgiveness.

Her legacy impacted thousands of people for God's kingdom. Because she lived a Christ first before all things life. Christ first before all things. She was surrendered to Christ. She was living in the fullness Christ offers, and because of that, she lived a generous life out of the abundant overflow of Christ-first in her life.

In every stage of life, you are leaving a legacy. Whether you're moving to a new place, or changing schools, or starting a new job, or just moving into a new season of life - you are leaving a legacy. So, are you leaving a legacy of generosity? Putting Christ first in all things will lead to a life of generosity.

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

Engage

When you think of someone who has left a legacy of generosity, who is that person? How did they model generosity?

What are you intentionally doing right now to ensure that your children or those you influence are learning values of generosity?

Looking at your life, what legacy are you currently working toward?

Intro to the Weekend

This week we spent time examining our relationships. Everything we do, including our response in every relationship, is done in the name of the Lord. In Week Two, we focused on sacrifice. In Week Three, we focused on moving from death to life to freedom, to the full and abundant life God has for you. Keep praying those prayers of surrender. Continue asking the Lord what it is that He wants to refine in you. As we head into the weekend, celebrate all that God has done in your heart in the last four weeks and pray He will continue moving you to action.

Read through Colossians 4:2-5 slowly, following the instructions below.

Before you read: Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to meet with you and speak to you.

As you read: Be attentive to what stirs in you as you read Paul's words and mark the words or phrases that jump out at you.

After you read: Spend a few more moments in conversation with God about what you just read.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Colossians 4:2-5

MESSAGE NOTES

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Colossians 4:2-5

WEEK FIVE

Colossians 4:2-5

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Final Word

Here we are, in the final week of the For the One series and the final chapter of Colossians. As you've read Paul's words and reflected on how they apply to your life today, have you noticed Paul's theme in this letter?

God is first in all of creation and in Him all things hold together. He went first for us in salvation and through Him all things are reconciled. As Christ followers we should live in such a way that it's obvious to others that we see Christ as first before all things in our life.

We've spent the last four weeks discovering what it looks like to acknowledge God first in our priorities, our choices, our sacrifices, and our relationships and homes. The good news is God's acceptance isn't based on how right we get it, how much we achieve or how generous we are. God's acceptance and love are offered as a free gift to all who will receive it.

Now is the time to pray and act. Creating space to allow God to take His rightful place in all areas of your life.

Action

Read Paul's final instructions in Colossians 4:2-6.

- 1. Write down your observations of this passage. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- 2. Reread the passage, but this time turn it into a personalized prayer.

(Example) God, I want to devote myself to prayer being both watchful and thankful. I pray you open doors for myself and other Christians to have opportunities to share our faith, to clearly proclaim your glory, knowing others risk persecution to follow you. Help me to be wise in the way I treat others, making the most of every opportunity to show how loving you are. Let my words and actions today be full of grace. Amen.

Reprioritizing

Many people are devoted to a sports team, a public figure, a celebrity or a cause. We can be a devoted friend, partner, employee and parent. These are not bad things, but there are so many things in life we devote our time, energy and resources to that we become stretched thin. You might feel like you're spinning plates running back and forth giving each plate another spin so none of them crash to the floor.

Some of our plates are made of glass, and some are made of plastic. It's our responsibility to determine which plates need our devotion above the others; which plates will break if dropped and which we will be able to pick back up again. If you feel like you're running back and forth between countless plates, it may be time to reprioritize. No one can wholeheartedly serve one thing and live for something else.

Matthew 6:24 says, "Nobody can serve two masters. Otherwise, they will either hate the first and love the second, or be devoted to the first and despise the second. You can't serve both God and wealth."

Christ didn't come to scrap the things that are important to us but to bring each of those under His love and leadership. He's inviting you to reprioritize so you can experience life abundantly. How do we take the areas of importance and reprioritize them to honor God?

We've talked. We've reflected. And we've come to the point in any growth journey where a decision needs to be made: Will you begin to apply what you've learned? Will your actions and decisions now start to reflect the life that you've spent so much time envisioning?

The life where Christ is first above all things.

Engage

1. Look at the list of priorities you created on Day One of Week One. Rewrite that list below, and add any priorities that have come to mind since. Which of these are glass and which are plastic?

2. Seeing which areas hold the most weight in your life, how can you be more intentional to honor God with those?

Get Moving

A legacy that benefits people and honors God isn't just going to happen. It requires living under the supremacy of Christ. It requires making the most of every opportunity.

We worship because Christ is supreme before all things. (Colossians 1:15-17) We trust because Christ sacrificed for us first. (Colossians 1:21-22) We sacrifice because that leads to fullness of life. (Colossians 2:9-12) We love others because it is Christ we serve first. (Colossians 3:16-24) And finally, we act so that others may know Christ and share in His goodness.

Two ways Paul highlights this in Colossians is by serving in your context and making the most of every opportunity. We often feel limited by our season of life, thinking once I make it to this stage then I'll have more of what I need to serve God and others. Sometimes what we see as a barrier is really meant to be an opportunity, but because our focus gets pulled away from God's purpose, we miss it. Paul's challenge is to look at your life with a new perspective.

As much as Paul had done to advance the kingdom, he was always on the lookout for what God wanted to do next. He took God's mission on as his own and felt the burden that there is always the one -- the one who is far from God, wandering in the wilderness, needing life and forgiveness.

We all have an opportunity to intentionally invest exactly where we are. God doesn't wait for us to get the promotion, house, spouse, degree before He uses us. So, why are we waiting? Make the most of every moment where God has you today. Don't wait to start living your kingdom purpose.

Engage

1. What kingdom purpose is God inviting you to step into?

2. What does it look like for your day-to-day life to live purposefully for God's mission?

Living on Mission

Inviting someone to church is one piece of evangelism. But it's one small piece. Living a missional life looks like:

- Knowing my purpose
- Living it everyday
- So others can see, hear and experience Christ

Paul never stopped actively seeking a chance to spread the Gospel. Every encounter mattered to him. Even after being thrown in jail and bound by chains, he didn't quit. While in chains, he ministered to those around him, some of which were the people persecuting him for his faith. In jail, he had limitations of what he could do. But, instead of focusing on what he lost, he shifted his focus to encouraging the churches, teaching others how to share their faith and ministering to the prison guards.

Some of us are eager to serve but terrified of sharing God's love through our words. This way of living is "good" by the world's standards, but it is not on mission. Others love to talk about God and share His word, but their actions are inconsistent and hypocritical. We are called to live in word and deed for the glory of God and good of others.

So, ask yourself, do my actions and my speech display Christ to those around me?

From Week One Day One, we've emphasized this 5-week journey you're on is not about being a better Christian. It is about loving Jesus more. When you commit to loving Jesus more, the more you'll start to look and sound like Jesus, and the natural outflow of your love for God will be to love others. These two cannot be separated. That's what Jesus is getting at when He gave us the two greatest commandments:

- Love God with all your heart, soul and mind. (Matthew 22:37)
- Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:38)

Since Christ has called us to love others in the same way that He loves us, selflessly and sacrificially, it is not enough for us to just simply say we love others. When we commit to loving God and loving others - the way Paul shows us throughout his writings - everything we do has the potential to invite others into an encounter with Christ. To experience Christ.

Action

Take a moment to reflect on a missed opportunity to share the Gospel or your faith story with someone. Write down what you remember about the moment.

- What were you feeling any fears or uncertainties?
- Did you feel God prompting you or did you not see it as an opportunity until afterward?
- If you could go back in time, is there anything that you would do differently?

Intro into a New Rhythm

Inviting someone to church is one piece of evangelism. But it's one small piece. Paul understood time has a way of getting away from us, so it's important we make every moment matter. As long as we have breath, we have a purpose and mission. In Colossians 4:6, he leaves us with instructions for our days ahead.

When you speak, make sure it's always full of grace, and well flavored with salt! That way you'll know how to give each person an appropriate answer.

We use salt to preserve food and as a flavor enhancer. Salt's value lies in its effect on its surroundings, the impact it makes. In the same way God wants to use you, your words and actions to impact those around you. He has created you to be a positive impact. As followers of Christ, you are called to be different and to live a righteous life.

Like some of life's journeys go, you come to the end only to realize you're just getting started. The same is true for the For the One series; while we're at the end of the five-week experience, in many ways we're just getting started. During Week Four, you had an opportunity to make a commitment to your life reflecting that God is first before all things, and now the new rhythm starts as you live out your generous commitment. So, let's take a moment to look back and plan for living a new rhythm.

Action

Spend time praising God and celebrating the work He has been doing in your life. Take your time flipping back through the past days and write down where you've seen God at work. What are some of the prayers you've seen answered? How have you been surprised by God? What situations are you still praying for God to reveal Himself in? What are the things you wanted to work on but haven't started?

Before you close the book on today's devotional, write down how you'll continue to put God before all things. Be realistic, make a plan that suits you, maybe challenges you a bit. Answer the question, "How am I going to continue to be mindful of the things I've learned in the past several weeks?"

Set some reminders in your calendar (6 weeks, 6 months, a year) as check in points to see if you're still on mission, how God has been faithful to you, and see your personal growth.

FOR THE ONE FAQ'S

If we commit to For the One, how does this change my giving to missions, the general fund, and other special offerings or designated gifts?

During this two-year period, every contribution to God through Grace Church is a contribution to our For the One initiative. Every aspect of the ministry vision God is calling us towards for the next two years, will be funded through For the One. There will not be separate funds. Every gift given to Grace Church will go to the key components of this initiative - continuing to invest in our ongoing ministries, increasing our investment in our local and global community, and further expanding our outreach and impact through facility expansion. The only exceptions to this are fees for camp registrations, purchases of shoes for Reno Love or coats for kids at Christmas.

What are you asking me to do?

First and foremost, we ask that you pray and seek God's lead on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him and listen to what He says. Engage in a Home Group during this season, if you haven't already joined one. Engage in personal reflection with God in this For the One guide. Talk with your group, spouse, family, friends, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life. We are asking that you make a commitment to gospel-driven, surrendered generosity - whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His lead. Finally, prepare to be amazed. We serve an awesome God, and we anticipate He will move in huge ways as we seek an unprecedented impact from our collective For the One commitments - something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, November 12, and prepare for a life-changing experience. It will be a defining moment for Grace and for you.

Are there additional ways besides cash that I can give more toward For the One?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give toward For the One. You might have stocks, property, or other investments. Or, you may have stored resources that God might call you to give. Please let us know if you need help with facilitating gifts of property or stock. Send questions to ForTheOne@gracechurchreno.org and we will get you what you need!

How long is my commitment?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our First Big Give on Sunday, December 3, 2023, and will end in December 2025.

What if I don't have a job right now? What does that mean for my For the One commitment?

For the One is about your total, prioritized, gospel-driven generosity to God through Grace Church. God calls us to action in times of hardship just as much as He does in times of abundance, which looks different for every person. For the One is about a heart surrender and trusting the promptings of the Holy Spirit in your life – something that is only accomplished by seeking the Lord and responding to His call and His Word. That may mean that you are challenged to sell things, pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you don't quite know how to fulfill right now, but that you believe God will provide for as you seek for ways to sacrifice and work toward that commitment. Our hope and prayer is for 100% of us to be a part of For the One so that we can all support, love, encourage, and pray for one another through this life changing season at Grace.

What if I'm moving within the next two years, or if I am uncertain about how long I'll be a part of Grace Church?

None of us know exactly what our future will hold. That's the beauty and challenge of taking steps of faith! Even if you're not sure if you'll be a part of Grace Church for the entire span of the next two years, we invite you to still commit to generosity and be a part of this life-changing endeavor God has for our church. If needed, you may modify your commitment at any time. Often, God calls people to continue to support Grace even after they've left so they can still be a part of something this important. If you happen to move out of the area, we will miss you but still invite you to join Grace in For the One!

What if I am significantly in debt right now? Am I still supposed to give?

If you are someone currently seeking to make payments to pay off debt right now, we commend you for making progress on that. You should continue to do so. We would be happy to help you in this journey and recommend tools to help you. However, being in debt does not make someone "excused" from giving. Giving isn't about what God wants from you; it's about what God wants for you. It should be our joy and privilege to give at all times, regardless of the amount or percentage. Please contact us at FortheOne@gracechurchreno.org if you need help working through all this.

What if I have never even given to Grace Church before?

For the One was crafted specifically with you in mind. It's a "one fund" generosity initiative that is the perfect way for you to take your first steps in giving. For the One is a call to surrendered, gospel-driven generosity for absolutely everyone at Grace Church. If you have never given before, it's time to get in the game with committed giving. We really hope you will! It will change your life.

What if I am new around here?

For the One is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in living and giving God our first and best as followers of Jesus. We believe that the local church is the most compelling mission to give support, and we would love for you to make Grace Church home and join us in For the One, however God leads.

What if I haven't been baptized yet?

Great question. People take different spiritual steps at different times. Some people begin praying before attending church. Others start going to a Home Group before they begin talking to God in prayer. Giving is another spiritual step, and it comes at different times for different people. One thing is for sure. Just like other spiritual disciplines, giving draws us closer to God. And God is calling ALL of us to give. Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19) Whether or not you have taken the spiritual step of baptism, we would encourage you still to join us in For the One. We firmly believe that it will draw you closer to God and hopefully to a place where you are ready to be baptized and fully surrender your life to Jesus. Sidenote: We will be baptizing on November 19th as part of For the One. You can sign up by texting the word "Baptism" to 411-247.