

FOLLOWING JESUS ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

At Grace Church we believe that the essence of Christianity is glorifying God by following Jesus in the power of the Spirit (Matthew 10:37-39). We also believe that the nature of a Christ-follower is summed up in the seven characteristics listed below. Our prayer is that the questions that correspond to each characteristic would guide your prayers, challenge you to live in obedience, and hold other Christ-followers accountable.

1. A worshiper/lover of God - One who is satisfied in God alone. To worship God is to express your satisfaction in God. To love God is to understand that He is the greatest thing for all things (Matthew 22:37-39)
 - ? In the past week would you describe yourself as hungering and thirsting for God (Matthew 5:6)?
 - ? In the past week have you been able to echo David's words in Psalm 84:2, "My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God"?
 - ? How have you expressed your love for God in the past week (2 Samuel 6:14-15)?
 - ? Describe your communion with God over the past week (Psalm 63).
2. A debtor/lover of people – One who desires others to be satisfied in God alone. To be a debtor is to recognize that you owe the grace that you received. To be a lover of people is to truly want what is best for them – God (Matthew 22:39).
 - ? Describe the nature of your love for others over the course of this past week.
 - ? How did you express your love for others last week (1 John 4:7)?
 - ? Have you shared the gospel with a non-Christian in the past week (2 Timothy 4:1-2)?
 - ? Are you more loving today than you were 3 months ago (Ephesians 4:15-16)?
3. One who sees God and His Word rightly - Understanding God rightly means knowing Him as He truly is and not as we (or others) have made Him to be. Understanding God's Word rightly means knowing what it is, what it says, and what it calls us to do (2 Timothy 3:16).
 - ? Have you truly meditated on God's Word in the past week (Joshua 1:8)?
 - ? What are you doing to grow in your understanding of God and His Word (Proverbs 2:1-5)?
 - ? Have you been faithfully memorizing Scripture in the past week (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)?
 - ? Would you describe your time in God's Word as "sweet" this past week (Psalm 119:103)?
4. Suffering servant – One who recognizes Jesus call to serve and suffer. A disciple recognizes that Jesus' offer of salvation does not include an offer to escape the trials of this life, that it does not include an offer to gain worldly peace and prosperity, and that it does not include an offer of earthly comfort and security. Instead, it is a call to serve others as if we were serving Jesus and to expect suffering (in the form of persecution and hardship) because of it (Matthew 20:25-28, John 15:20, John 13:1-17).
 - ? In the past week have you sought out opportunities to serve others—particularly the less fortunate (Matthew 20:25-28)?
 - ? Do you find yourself growing in your desire to serve others, rather than to be served (Acts 20:35)?
 - ? Have you been despised by others because of your faith in the past week (Matthew 5:10-12)?

5. Godly character – One who is becoming like Christ in his or her character. A disciple is marked by a pursuit of Christ's character: holiness, faithfulness, obedience, etc (Matthew 5:48).
 - ? Describe your pursuit of holiness in the past week (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7). Have you looked at pornography? Have you spoken unhelpful or unedifying words? Was your thought life pure? Are you growing in your hatred of sin?
 - ? Did you find yourself demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) last week (Galatians 5:22-23)? How was your joy in Jesus? Were you kind to friend and enemy? Are you growing in gentleness with others?
 - ? Are you becoming a more humble person (Proverbs 22:4)? Do you find it increasingly easy to avoid thinking of yourself too highly (Romans 12:3)? Are you growing in your ability to think of others as more significant than yourself (Philippians 2:3)?
 - ? Are you growing as a godly man or women (Ephesians 5:22-33)? How did you pursue biblical masculinity or femininity in this past week? Husbands, did you love and lead your wife as Christ loves and leads the church (did you pursue romance, initiate conversation and prayer, sacrifice for her, and speak to her gently)? Wives did you respect and follow your husbands in the way that the church is called to respect and follow Jesus (did you honor him with you words in his presence and away from his presence, did you make his leading joyful, were you intentional in looking ways to be a helper to him)?
6. Part of the Body of Christ – One who recognizes his or her role as a believer in the body of Christ. A disciple recognizes the importance of finding and using gifts to benefit the body, understands Biblical Stewardship, and the need for unity (Romans 12:4-5).
 - ? Did you use your gifts to serve the Church this past week (1 Corinthians 12:7)? Have you found a regular ministry in which to serve?
 - ? Did you give sacrificially of your finances to the church this past week? Do you find yourself giving more joyfully and purposefully (2 Corinthians 9:7)?
 - ? Did you take part in corporate worship this past week (Hebrews 10:25)? Did you prepare well for corporate worship?
 - ? Were you faithful in praying for the pastors, elders, and congregation this past week (James 5:16)?
7. Recognizes dependence on God – One who lives based on the knowledge that he or she relies on God for everything. As such, a disciple will commit himself or herself to expressing their dependence on God to God individually and corporately through desperate prayers (for God's will, not theirs, to be known and done) and regular fasting (to arouse their awareness of their dependence) (John 15:5).
 - ? Are you growing in your recognition of your dependence on God (Acts 17:26-28)?
 - ? How did you express your dependence on God in the past week?
 - ? Were you faithful in prayer this past week (Ephesians 6:18)? Do you find your prayers increasingly desperate? Do you find yourself growing in your expectancy or faith when you pray?
 - ? Have you intentionally fasted as a result of your brokenness over sin or your longing for the presence of God in the past week (Matthew 6:16-18)?