

Life Group Notes: 25th October 2015

Grace is REALLY amazing! (part 2)

Scriptures: Rom. 5:8; Rom. 8:35-39; John 3:16-17; 4:1-26; 8:1-11; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4; Matthew 5:43-48; 7:12

1. Why do you think that grace is Christianity's best gift to the world?
2. Philip Yancey wrote: "There is nothing that we can do to cause God to love us more than he does, and there is nothing that we can do to cause God to love us less than he does." **WHY** is this statement true? (What is his rationale?)
3. Read Matthew 5:43-48. What did Steve mean by saying that grace is the language of the kingdom of God?
4. The prostitute in Yancey's story claimed that she was feeling terrible about herself, and church people would only make her feel worse. Do you think she was right in this?
5. Mark Twain spoke of "Good people in the worst sense of the word." What kind of people was he referring to? In which way did Jesus' response differ to the religious leaders of his day? (see John 4:1-26; 8:1-11)
6. Do you think that Christians are more known for what they are against than for what they are for? Is that helpful to God's kingdom?
7. Tony Campolo told a great story of the bag lady and the saleswoman. How might you have reacted if you had been that salesperson? What other stories, personal to you, demonstrate Matthew 7:12?
8. David Watson wrote: "Love is the one crucial mark of the Christian and of the church in the eyes of the world. The man in the street quite frankly could not care less about our doctrinal differences, our religious squabbles or our churchy debates. Most of these, he feels, are no more than verbal or theological hair splitting." Thoughts?
9. Jeff Blethke rapped: "If grace is water, then the church should be an ocean. It's not a museum for good people, it's a hospital for the broken..." Do you agree with the 'hospital' metaphor?
10. William Barclay wrote: "More people have been brought into the church by the kindness of real Christian love than by all the theological arguments in the world, and more people have been driven from the church by the hardness and ugliness of so-called Christianity than by all the doubts in the world." What stories of kindness, that you are aware of, have brought people to Jesus?