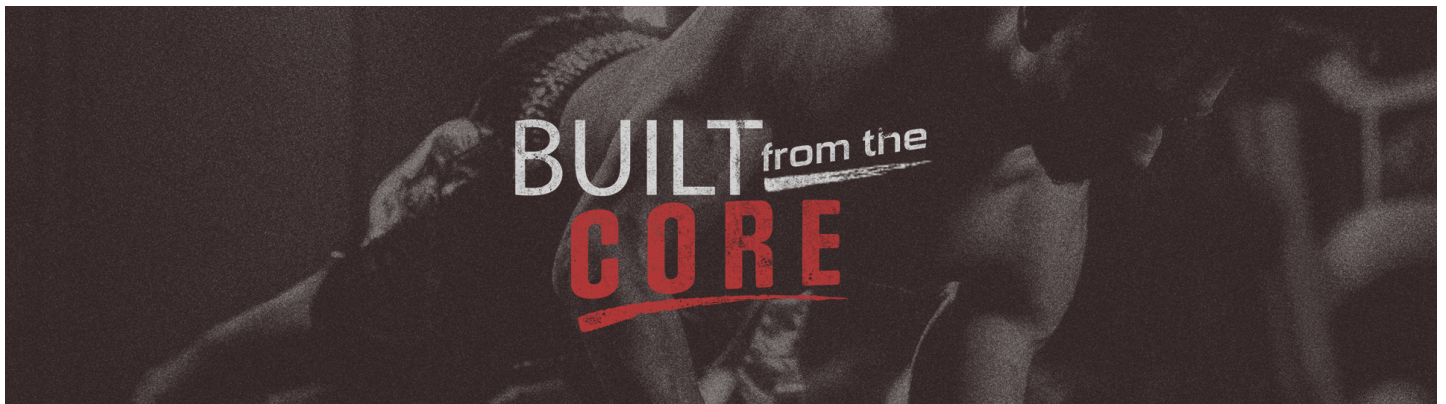




Built from the Core // Part 8

Introduction:

This week Chance concludes a new series called '**Built From The Core**' with the message for **Week 8: Better Together**. Do you know what the Core of Grace Community Church is, why it's important and why it matters?

Do you live on purpose? How does the mission statement and core beliefs make us better together? As we complete the series we want to focus on this truth: *When ordinary people unite around Biblical Truth and the gospel mission, God does extraordinary things.*

Questions:

1. As you think about how you can serve God with your gifts, why is Paul pleading for you to give your entire body as a living sacrifice to God? Is this difficult to do every day? Do you understand the cost? What if the Christian life isn't about you, but giving up yourself to God's plan? Are you being transformed, is your mind being renewed? **Romans 12:1-2**
2. Are you honest with yourself when you evaluate how you are living daily? Are you tempted to think you are better than you really are? What does Paul say you need to measure yourself against? How does this help to protect you from pride as you use your gifts to serve together? **Romans 12:3-5**
3. Have you ever taken time to think about what you do well? What are some of the things that come naturally to you? Do you think of those as gifts from God? How

can you use those to serve God? **Romans 12:6-8**

4. How could using the gifts you have been given contribute to the unity of the body of Christ? Why can the attitude you have when using your gifts make a difference in how effective you are?
5. Do you really love others or do you pretend? What does it look like for you to put the needs of others above your own? How could that demonstrate real love for someone else? Do you demonstrate genuine affection by sacrificing for others?

Romans 12:9-13

6. How hard is it to bless someone who persecutes you, can you pray for God to bless them? Is this where things get real for a Christian? Do you find it difficult to live in harmony with others when you face criticism or persecution? Do you understand what others around you are facing? **Romans 12:14-16**
7. How does Paul say that you can conquer evil? What is the 'good' that you can be doing? Why is it Christ-like for you to respond to evil with good? **Romans 12:17-21**

How can you do this? Do you agree that when you live out these values it helps us as a church to be **Better Together**?

- Daily put your life under the authority of Jesus
- Pursue and live out honest relationships with other followers of Jesus
- Humbly share with others what Jesus has done for you, it's worth sharing
- Leverage your time, talent and treasures for the cause of Jesus Christ
- Daily put the needs of others above your own, living out Romans 12

Key takeaway: During this series we've learned why the mission and core beliefs of Grace have stayed the same - because we believe this is the call of the church. How this all ties together for us is that we are the ones God has gifted and chosen to live out this mission in our daily lives; for His honor and His glory.

Summary:

- Give your entire self to God as a holy, living sacrifice

- Be honest in the evaluation of yourself so you don't become prideful
- What comes naturally to you, can you use that to serve others?
- Play your role in the unity of the body of Christ by using your gift(s)
- Don't pretend to love others, love each other, put others above self
- Bless those who persecute you, live in relationship with others
- Conquer evil, by living out these values:
 - Daily put your life under the authority of Jesus
 - Pursue and live out honest relationships with other followers of Jesus
 - Humbly share with others what Jesus has done for you
 - Leverage your time, talent and treasures for the cause of Jesus Christ
 - Daily put the needs of others above your own