

## Get a Grip #1: The Big Picture



*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. (Romans 12:1-3)*



**CORE  
BELIEF**

**The Grip-Birkman is more than an assessment, it is a series of shared values lived out in community.**



**Cultural values critically impact team building.**

Cultural Values	Healthy Biblical Values	Scriptures
Self-centeredness	Selflessness	Rom 12:3; Php 2:3-4
Entitlement	Sacrifice	Rom 12:1; Luke 14:27
Dissatisfaction	Contentment (in any circumstance)	Php 4:11-13
Sarcasm	Kindness	I Corinthians 13:4-7
Ladder Mentality	Servanthood	Mt 23:11-12; Mt. 20:25-28; Php 2:5-8
Rebellion glorified	Submission	Heb 13:17; Js 4:7
Impatience	Patience	Isaiah 40:23-31
Need to be entertained	Rest	Isaiah 30:15
Blame	Responsibility/Confession	Mt. 5:23-24; Jas. 5:16

Share honestly which one or two of these cultural values you struggle with in your life. Share what it might take to address the struggle areas, and then pray for each other.

Which of these cultural values most affect your leadership or serving?

Which of these cultural values most affect your life and ministry?



If these values drive our culture, how should we respond as Believers?



CORE  
BELIEF

**When Christ is the Center, and the Body Life Principles are personally settled, we can truly move from *I* to *We*.**

### CHRIST IS THE CENTER:

Moving from I to We is a process of understanding God's unique design for me in the context of relationships. We must fully embrace His will is fulfilled through our obedience to His plan for the Body of Christ, each person submitting and stewarding the Gifts and relationships God has given.

Assume the Appropriate Personal Posture -- Our lives must be Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered and mission focused. This understanding releases our own will to God's Will. This process of realignment, and our purpose, is not about doing good things for God, it is about God working powerfully through us.

- One submitted: learning to follow is NOT optional (Hebrews 13:17)
- One among: understanding my rightful place as a Christian (Romans 12:4-5)
- One who is a servant: with Jesus as our role model (Philippians 2:1-11)



### Large Group Discussion:

What are the implications of Christ as the center for you and your team?

### BODY LIFE PRINCIPLES:

Embrace these Body Life Principles as ministry teams or life-giving cells

- **Significance:** Your significance is settled because of the Cross (I Cor. 12:12-17). There is nothing you can do, say, write, or perform that will make you any more significant than you already are in Christ.
- **Role:** Everyone has a God-designed role to play (I Cor. 12:11,18). God has a role for you in the Body of Christ which no one else can play.
- **Unity:** Everyone actively commits to building team unity (Ephesians 2:21-22). Working for team and body unity is a choice, and we must work hard to stay together in purpose and task.
- **Love:** All actions and reactions must come from a core of true and transparent love. It's not about me - serving others and putting them first is essential.



CORE  
BELIEF

***I to We* begins with stewardship.  
Stewardship is about managing what God has given us.**



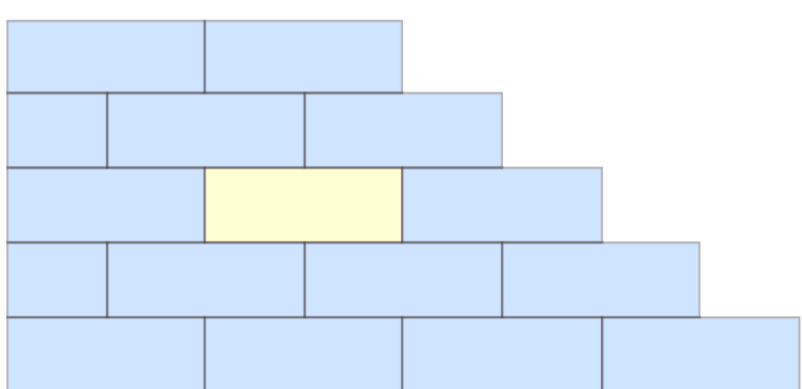
*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11).*

Each person is a "relationship steward," (an "*oikonomos*")

Each person is a "Spiritual Gifts steward" in the framework of relationships.

Compare these “living stones” being built together. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

1. Put your name in the center stone.
2. Fill in the surrounding blocks with names:
  - a. Who has stewarded you in your walk with Christ?
  - b. Who has God placed in your life for **you** to steward?



**CORE  
BELIEF**

**We do not seek to understand ourselves or others better simply for purposes of self-awareness, but rather for purposes of stewardship in a context of relationships.**



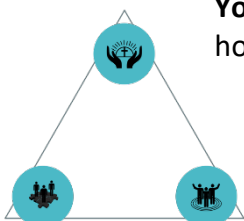
#### **Assessment Overview:**

The value of the Grip-Birkman is in the ability for us to gain clarity of ourselves in the context of relationships through two different lenses: who you are naturally and in the supernatural gifting of the Spirit in you.



**The Birkman Method** - gives a clear understanding of your natural behavior through three lenses.

- Usual Style of behavior
- Stress style of behavior
- The underlying motivators behind these behaviors (Interests and Needs)



**Your Leadership Grip** - gives you three “handles” on your gifts to get a better “grip” on how your gifts actually function in the Body:

- In gifts language (Your supernatural identity)
- In team language (Your supernatural fit in a team)
- In body-building language (Your supernatural ability to build the Body of Christ)

Seen together, these two assessments help you gain understanding of how God has designed you to be powerful in the Body of Christ and surrounding community.

**Discussion Questions:**

What did you learn from looking at the people “building-blocks” that God has placed around you?

What does stewarding mean to you?

What can stand in the way of “I to We” for you?



Be sure to write on your “Get A Grip Reflection Journal” your ah-ha’s or follow up questions.



