

## Death to Life Pt. 3

(Pastor Rex's message in Racine)

It's not often we sit around and talk about our ego. But nonetheless, it's a real thing that has great influence over us.

Our ego is the part of us where the I, Me or Mine piece of our personality takes a front seat and wants control. On one hand the ego can be a force for good, because it helps fuel our confidence, and desires to achieve goals. But when left un-checked the ego can have a serious negative impact on our lives. Especially in our relationships!

When on the loose, our ego wants us to look at every relationship (marriage, parenting, work peers, friends) for the purpose of serving our SELF. 'How can this relationship benefit me?', is what the ego wants to know...

While Jesus never talks specifically about our ego, he does have plenty to say about dying to our self in order to have healthy relationships. Just like following Jesus is a daily journey of ups and downs, so is managing our ego. But when kept in check, we become more healthy and therefore, our relationships will be, too!

### Questions:

Jesus said, *"Love others the way I have loved you."* John 15:12

1. What kinds of examples did Jesus set that would inspire us to love others like he did? Why is our ego in direct opposition to this kind of love?

2. Rex stated, "The healthier I am, the healthier my relationships will be.". How have you seen this to be true in your marriage, or parenting, or with people you work with?

3. Read Matthew 7:3-5. *Why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you say to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye, then you will be able to see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.*

Do you find yourself pointing out other people's specks, rather than thinking to examine your own first? Do you feel today's society breeds a culture of calling out other's issues and faults, without concern for our own issues?

4. What practical things can we do to "first deal with the log in our own eye", as Jesus taught? How have you seen your own personal / spiritual growth make a positive impact on your most important relationships?