

LEADER HELPS
Who's Number One?
By Rev. Luther Brunette

- 1. Begin with prayer. Confess that fact that Jesus Christ is not always number one in your thoughts, your words, and in your actions. Looking into the mirror of the first commandment, ask for God's forgiveness — won for you by His death in our place on the cross of Calvary, and proclaimed as already accomplished His resurrection (Romans 4:25). Thankfully claim our Lord's forgiveness as His child. May He take first place in your life by His grace and mercy!**
- 2. "Postmodern Thought" — also called pluralism — generally says that all truth is relative. This thinking claims that what may be right and good and true for one person, may be completely different for another. The seeming exclusivity of the Gospel (Jesus is the only way to the Father. John 14:6) is a stumbling block to many. Even though we may be sensitive to some who may have this view point, we are bold to proclaim in the words of Peter in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."**

Different from exclusive clubs or organizations, though, the offer of God's grace is made to all, for "God so loved the world" (John 3:16). In this sense, the Gospel of Christ makes us "exclusively inclusive."

- 3. Our Lord Jesus, in the Gospels, points out that God's ways are so different than man's ways. Christ says in Matthew 19:30, "Many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first." In becoming "last" for us on the cross, Jesus makes us first in His kingdom so that one day, when He returns, we will be sitting with Him on the throne in glory. (Matthew 19:28)**
- 4. In response to God's grace, it is always amazing to realize and live out the words of Christ when He says in Matthew 20:25-27, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to be great**

among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Real meaning in life means following the JOY principal.

**Jesus
Others
Yourself**

As our Lord says in Matthew 16:25, “Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”

