



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#33

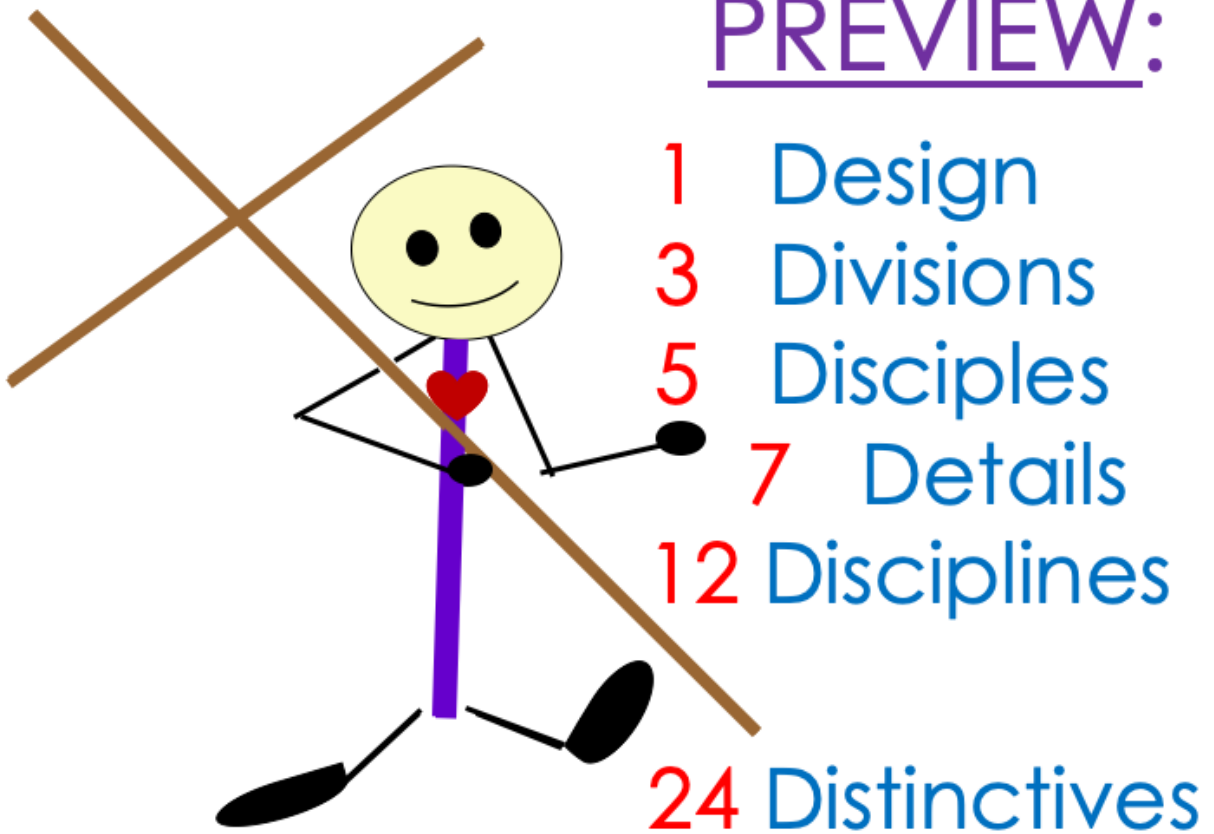
Growing In Christ

Mark 10:21

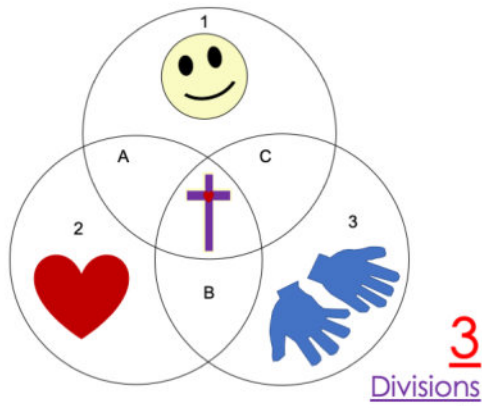
(Come And See Christianity book pages 96)

The FLOW

PREVIEW:

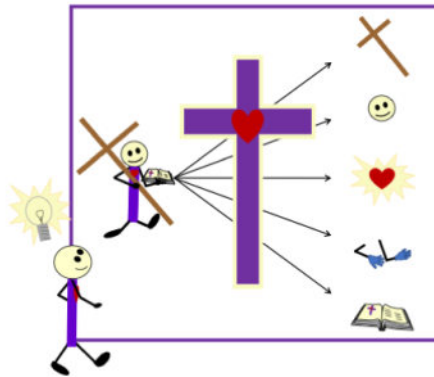


SECTION SIX: 12 Disciplines



The Disciple's "Hands" put into **action** the **truth** & **love** of God's Word, God's will, & God's ways. In short, when **each Christian's Head, Heart, & Hands** are united in purpose & power, the family of God is **living** as the **Body of Christ!**

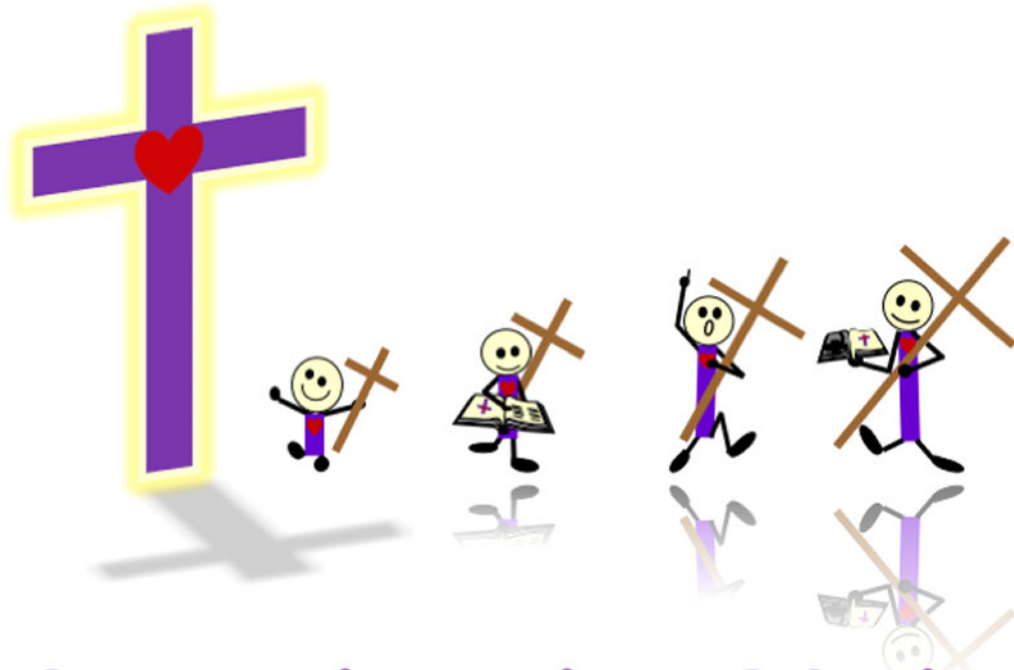
24 Family Distinctives:



24 DISTINCTIVES:

The “distinctives” are a family portrait... When you add God's Word, God's Spirit, God's Truth, God's love, and God's people all together, the distinctives are what we look, love, & live like :-)

We are...



Growing in-Christ

INTRO:

As we begin to **see the beautiful, biblical portrait of Christ's faith-filled family** defined and described by God's Word, will, and ways, it is critical to remember that the Holy Bible is to ALWAYS BE our ultimate source, authority, and interpreter in ALL things pertaining to one's understanding of reality and application of truth in love.

Remember,
The biblical Church is Christ's missional family...
Moreover, God's Word reveals our Father's will and His family's ways.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17**so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Here are ***24 defining & describing HANDS-on DISTINCTIVES of Christianity:***

True Christians are biblically, miraculously, intentionally, missionally, and imperfectly...

1. ***Responding to grace***
2. ***Repenting of sin***
3. ***Trusting the Bible***
4. ***Obeying God's Word***
5. ***Growing in Christ***
6. ***Living Spirit-led***
7. ***Praying for guidance***
8. ***Following by faith***
9. ***Dying to self***
10. ***Carrying our cross***
11. ***BE-ing The Church***
12. ***Loving one another (truly loving one another)***
13. ***Equipping the saints***
14. ***Exemplifying supernatural unity***
15. ***Ministering as ambassadors***
16. ***Discerning matters shrewdly***
17. ***Worshipping God vertically***
18. ***Experiencing Him horizontally***
19. ***Proclaiming the Gospel (no matter what)***
20. ***Fishing for men***
21. ***Making disciplined warriors***
22. ***Winning spiritual warfare***
23. ***Loving our King***
24. ***Serving His kingdom***

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

This lesson marks another major transition point in our curriculum's eye-opening explanation of Christianity. By way of review, we began in Section One with the reality of Almighty God having 1 Divine DESIGN (also known as a biblical worldview and the eternal application of Jesus Christ's Gospel). In Section Two, we addressed the 3 DIVISIONS (Head, Heart, and Hands) that make up the "being" in every human being. Next, in Section Three, we demonstrated how Christianity accounts for, defines, and describes all of humanity, every person, past, present, and future. We noted that all people can be identified as one of the 5 DISCIPLES – Lost, Lover, Learner, Leader, or Lifer. Moving forward, Section Four revealed, engaged, and explained the 7 fundamental DETAILS of God's Divine DESIGN... because **we all need to know what we need to know**. To be more specific, those seven truths are: The Foundations, The Framework, The Facts, The Fight, The Faith, The Family, and the truth about Forever.

Then, in Section Five, which we just completed, our focus shifted from HEAD based truths to 12 HEART shaping exercises or disciplines - each having the potential to strengthen one's personal relationship with Christ, His Church, and their collective mission: bringing God glory by finding & growing more glorifiers.

We used the acronym **J.E.S.U.S.'S. P. S.W.O.R.D.** to outline and harmonize a biblical, missional, and intentional methodology for growing in God's love - & His loving witness. The 12 HEART DISCIPLINES are: **J**ournaling... **E**ating-nothing (fasting)... **S**cripture-intake... **U**nderstudy of Scripture... **S**tewardship... **S**olitude... **P**rayer... **S**erving... **W**orshipping... **O**utreach... **R**elationships... and **D**evelopment.

Now, our curriculum and study will transition to The HANDS. This is where **Christians demonstrate to the world that Christ is in their worship & witness**. Whereas our time spent in the HEAD sections (1-4) focused on the truths that Christians need and seek to LEARN, and our concentration on the 12 HEART DISCIPLINES of section 5 helped us to grow in God's LOVE, our sixth and final section will **walk through the 24 DISTINCTIVES, which explain & exemplify how Christians are to faithfully LIVE... and fully BE The Church... together** – all by God's grace & ALL for His glory!

God's Word puts it this way:

"Let us not love with word and tongue but in action and truth." – 1st John 3:18

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47](#)praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47

I. **DISTINCTIVES are FRUIT:**

It is important to realize that God’s miraculous and authentic **Christian DISTINCTIVES are the FRUIT of saving grace and faith** (Ephesians 2:1-10). As Jesus described in John 15, people can do nothing outside of their abiding in Him and obeying His Word, will and ways. In short, there will be no fruit unless one remains attached to and provided for by the true Vine and divine Root. With that said, a cautionary note is worth sharing here, beware the counterfeits that abound around the world. ***Plastic fruit is deceptive vs. DISTINCTIVE!***

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

II. **DISTINCTIVES are FAMILY:**



DISTINCTIVES, by definition, are those “distinguishing characteristics that are notable for having a special quality, style, and/or attractiveness” (Dictionary.com).

When it comes to God’s family, the true Church, each Christian and their individualistic DISTINCTIVES are as unique as their potential. At the same time, in the same way that a billion unique snowflakes can be combined to make a single snowstorm, or countless swatches of scrap fabric can be sewn together to make a single quilt, so it is with God’s family. The LORD creates His Christian family with a both/and combination of DISTINCTIVE uniqueness, as well as DISTINCTIVE love and defining unity.

Christianity’s DISTINCT family (ecclesia) has a DISTINCTIVE unity (koinonia).

“By this all people will know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another.”
– John 13:35

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

III. **DISTINCTIVES are WITNESS:**

The most biblical and healthy understandings of Christianity will include an embrace of two overarching and DISTINCTIVE purposes. Namely, per God’s Word, will, and ways, every Christian has received miraculous, saving grace, as well as the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to:

1. Bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.*

2. BE Christ’s witness.

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **and you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem (locally), and in all Judea and Samaria (regionally), and to the end of the earth (globally).”*

God’s DISTINCTIVE people have been filled with His Holy Spirit for the express purpose of living DISTINCTIVE lives. When the world sees the LORD’s loving family living out their divinely empowered and God-honoring worship, work, and warfare, the resulting fruit will serve as a faithful witness, built with supernatural, grace-based, and missional DISTINCTIVES.

“God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.”

- John Piper

The Christian Distinctive

What distinguishes Christianity from all other religions is that it is a *revealed* religion. Christianity is not about our search for God or our means of finding him. Christianity is not a religion that works its way upward. It is all about God coming to us — God in grace making himself known to us and making a way for us to enjoy fellowship with him.

And so, at the very heart of Christianity is, simply, a message — a message from God to us about what he has done to bring us to himself.

If Christianity is distinctively revealed religion, then it is also uniquely *authoritative*. It does not offer itself as the best and highest of human thinking about God or even the best or most successful of human efforts to know God. It professes to be nothing less than the unique word from God, his very own self-disclosure and the record of the actions he has taken in Jesus Christ to bring us into fellowship with himself.

One of Rudyard Kipling's characters declares, "The heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone; He don't obey no orders unless they is his own." That is to say, human religions lack authority — they form their own ideas and "discover" their own beliefs.

By contrast the Christian is "under orders," because unlike human religions, Christianity is a revealed religion — divinely revealed. We Christians are not our own touchstone of truth, and we do not confuse our ideas about God with His own self-revelation. We learn truth about God not from "inner lights" within ourselves but from God's own objective Word.

And apart from this external authority, there is no Christianity. This, at bottom, is Christianity's leading distinctive.

And so, we **Christians, prize Scripture as God's Word. We joyfully submit to it. And we enthusiastically proclaim its message of grace in Jesus Christ to the world.**

- Dr. Fred Zaspel

Just as the sinner's despair of any hope from himself is the first prerequisite of a sound conversion, so the loss of all confidence in himself is the first essential in the believer's growth in grace.

- A. W. Pink

Spiritual growth depends on two things: first a willingness to live according to the Word of God; second, a willingness to take whatever consequences emerge as a result.

- Sinclair B. Ferguson

Another subtle, yet critical component that we need to establish, based on its defining reality and foundational importance, is the active role (literally) of ***the suffix "ing"*** in this lesson. To be clear, while GROWTH can represent the present tense, its most natural reference is historical... normally speaking to a GROWTH that has already taken place. By contrast, when ***"ing"*** is added to the root word "GROW," the result is an indisputable verb... a word that defines interactive GROWTH in motion. Think about it. By definition, **where and when GROWING is happening, THINGS ARE CHANGING!**

But hold on... reader beware!

Not all GROWTH is good or godly GROWTH. More to the point, unless one's aim is truly in accord with God's Word, God's will, and God's ways, their goals, objectives, and subsequent efforts will be off, missing the mark, right from the start. As a result, whatever GROWS, regardless of how good one feels about it OR how much cultural affirmation and applause it receives, the end result will range somewhere between a sinful waste of time (**Ephesians 5:15-17**) and/or a blatant and damnable sin (**Matthew 7:21ff**).

In this regard, biblical exhortation and warning must be taken to heart. Why? Because, in the same way that hidden, cancerous tumors can GROW inside the human body, the same is true with deadly sins. Consider for a moment the destructive dangers of pride, anger, selfishness, fear, lust, envy, unforgiveness, jealousy, materialism, legalism, lukewarmness, etc. Sadly, even tragically, like weeds in a garden, with no need of additional fertilizer, sins can GROW rapidly and prolifically in the lives of lost people AND Christians alike. Consequently, **it is essential that we align and refine our sanctification and discipleship aims, ALL of our desires, intentions, and efforts for spiritual GROWTH, with that which truly exemplifies BE-ing IN CHRIST, as established, defined, and described BIBLICALLY.** *Anything less and/or anything more... in the end, boils down to some form of deceptive, distracting, or even destructive religiosity, ritualism, or just plain rubbish.*

Message

Christianity could & should BE a lifelong, growing journey with Jesus Christ.

“The disciple of Christ desires above all else to be like Him...”
- Dallas Willard

Growth is the only evidence of life.
- John Henry Newman

*Too often we fail to appreciate that (the) apprehension of God is not only the test of our worship, but also the test of our spiritual growth. **A Christian's real development in spiritual life will always be revealed by how he or she thinks about God - how much he thinks about Him, and how highly he thinks about Him.***
- Sinclair B. Ferguson

*“God did not give us His gospel just so we could embrace it and be converted. Actually, he offers it to us every day as a gift that keeps on giving to us “everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). **The wise believer learns this truth early and becomes proficient in extracting available benefits from the gospel each day. We extract these benefits by being absorbed in the gospel, speaking it to ourselves when necessary, and by daring to reckon it true in all we do.**”*
- Milton Vincent

*“We are called to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind ([Matt. 22:37](#)). The Great Commandment actually repeats ‘with all’ over and over again to remind us that nothing is worthy of our whole self but God alone. **Discipleship, then, is about a redirection of loves to the One who is lovely. The next curriculum, the next conference, or the next community group will only help you grow deeper in your relationship with Christ insofar as it attempts to reorient your love toward the Triune God.**”*
- J.T. English

BIG IDEA: **GROWING IN CHRIST is the grace-based, Spirit-empowered, miraculous and missional bullseye for every biblical Christian.**

PREVIEW:

1. GROWING
2. IN CHRIST
3. BIBLICALLY

TEXT:

Mark 10:21

And Jesus, looking at him (the Rich Young Ruler), loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

1. GROWING

Illustration:

Growth in grace is growth downward. It is the forming of a lower estimate of ourselves. It is a deepening realization of our nothingness. It is a heartfelt recognition that we are not worthy of the least of God's mercies.

- A. W. Pink

Explanation:

What Does It Mean For A Christian To Grow In Faith?

We are commanded in Scripture to "***grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***" ([2 Peter 3:18](#)). This growth is spiritual growth, growing in faith.

At the moment we receive Christ as our Savior, we are born again spiritually into God's family. But just as a newborn baby requires nourishing milk for growth and good development, so also a baby Christian requires [spiritual food](#) for growth. *"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good"* ([1 Peter 2:2-3](#)). Milk is used in the New Testament as a symbol of what is basic to the Christian life.

But as a baby grows, its diet changes to also include solid foods. With this in mind, read how the writer of Hebrews admonished the Christians: *"In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil"* ([Hebrews 5:12-14](#)). Paul saw the same problem with the Corinthian believers; they had not grown in their faith, and he could only give them "milk" because they were not ready for solid food ([1 Corinthians 3:1-3](#)).

The analogy between a human baby and a spiritual baby breaks down when we realize how each baby matures. A human baby is fed by his parents and growth is natural. But **a baby Christian will only grow as much as he purposefully reads and obeys and applies the Word to his life. Growth is up to him.** There are Christians who have been saved many years, but spiritually they are still babies. They cannot understand the deeper truths of the Word of God.

What should a Christian's diet consist of? The Word of God! The truths taught in the Bible are rich food for Christians. Peter wrote that God has given us everything we need for life through our (growing) knowledge of Him. **Read carefully [2 Peter 1:3-11](#) where Peter lists character qualities that need to be added to our beginning point of faith in order for maturity to take place and to have a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. - [GotQuestions.org](#)

Application:

Hebrews 6:1a

*Therefore, let us leave
the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity,*

2. IN CHRIST

Illustration:

All growth that is not toward God is growing to decay.
- George Macdonald

“It is of no value to God to give Him your life for death. He wants you to be a ‘living sacrifice’—to let Him have all your strengths that have been saved and sanctified through Jesus ([Romans 12:1](#)).
This is what is acceptable to God.”
- Oswald Chambers

Explanation:

The sobering account of the Rich Young Ruler’s shocking interaction with Jesus the Christ (Luke 18:18-30; Mark 10:17-30; Matthew 19:16-30) is an excellent and perhaps convicting example why “IN CHRIST” is the central point in this lesson. Take note, when pressing into God’s Word, one is quick to notice that initially, on the surface, by all observable, external measures, the Rich Young Ruler claims to be... even appears to be... a model of informed reverence, righteous humility, and surrendered zeal. In short, this guy comes across like a church all-star – the perfect disciple – everything we aim to be.

That’s the point... this man is NOT who or what he thinks... appears... or claims to be... whether he and the others realize it or not.

The one who everyone thinks is saved is lost. This man is NOT “IN CHRIST.”

You should also know that while the Rich Young Ruler’s downfall was his love of money, money is not the focus of Christ’s teaching here. Instead, God and His Word are showing us how well hidden, morally deceptive, and religiously disguised (Matthew 7:21-23)... damnable idolatry can be.

Make no mistake, whatever you love more than Christ will kill you.

What many need to hear and heed today is the biblical fact that BE-ing IN CHRIST is a miraculous work of grace that **saves us *from* sin, not *for* sin.** In other words, when one is truly born again, they are forever IN CHRIST – Amen! According to the Bible, they have become “a new creation, the old is

*gone and the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). **Condemnation will never again be a part of the Christ-follower’s identity** (Romans 8:1). Thus, while sinless perfection will elude Christians between here and heaven, a new passion will reside inside every redeemed believer. Praise God, for those who are truly IN CHRIST, His Spirit and purposes take hold and lead them on a new, narrow, and challenging way that prioritizes the pursuit of God’s glory. Thus, **BEing IN CHRIST means faithfully learning, loving, & living for Him.***

In the end, the illustration & lesson to take away from the Rich Young Ruler’s faithless example is summarized in the Bible’s final words regarding him: *“He became very sad... and disheartened... he went away sorrowful...”*
Don’t confuse religion with relationship... morals with miracles... “good enough” with The eternal Gospel of God.

If and when anyone refuses to surrender to the biblical truth and Lordship of Christ... when they choose a final, rebellious stance of defiance against God’s Word, will, and ways... they are demonstrating the opposite and opposing characteristics of someone who is IN CHRIST. When the Rich Young Ruler chose to disobey and walk away from Jesus vs. surrendering his idol and faithfully following Christ, he sinfully left down *“the broad road that leads to destruction”* (Matthew 7:13). In that moment, per God’s Word, the one we originally thought to be an all-star, was revealed to be a damned & falling star.

“Christ says, ‘Give me All. I don’t want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don’t want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree cut down. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent, as well as the ones you think wicked—the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours.”

- C.S. Lewis

Mere Christianity

Application:

We should be no more excited about cultural “successes” & superficial spiritual trophies than the pitiful gold miner whose pursuit in the mines has yielded nothing more than worthless piles of shinny pyrite – “fools gold.”
Any form of “success” that is not IN CHRIST is an ultimate, all out failure!

Isaiah 29:13 & Matthew 15:8

*“This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;*

Men may not know how fruits grow, but they do know that they cannot grow in five minutes. Some lives have not even a stalk on which fruits could hang, even if they did grow in five minutes. Some have never planted one sound seed of Joy in all their lives; and others who may have planted a germ or two have lived so little in sunshine that they never could come to maturity.

- Henry Drummond

The fatal metaphor of progress, which means leaving things behind us, has utterly obscured the real idea of growth, which means leaving things inside us.

- G.K. Chesterton

3. BIBLICALLY

Illustration:

The ways, and fashions, and amusements, and recreations of the world have a continually decreasing place in the heart of a growing Christian. He does not condemn them as downright sinful, nor say that those who have anything to do with them are going to hell. He only feels they have a constantly diminishing hold on his own affections and gradually seem smaller and more trifling in his eyes.

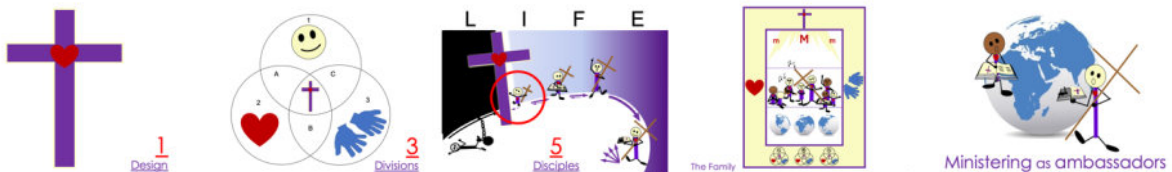
- J. C. Ryle

Explanation:

A state of mind that sees God in everything is evidence of growth in grace and a thankful heart.

- Charles Finney

Spiritual GROWTH is Divinely DESIGNED to happen **biblically** (per God’s Word, God’s will, and God’s ways – 2 Timothy 3:16-17), **holistically** (including the human Head, Heart, and Hands – Proverbs 3:5-6), as well as **progressively** (changing people and transforming them from Lost to Lovers, Learners, Leaders, and Lifers – Ephesians 2:1-10). Continuing on, genuine, Gospel-driven spiritual GROWTH also happens **lovingly** (with God’s family truly loving Up, In, and Out – John 20:21), which simultaneously constitutes GROWING **missionally** (which begins with humble & honest self-confession and heart-correction - Matthew 7:1-5). At that point, Christian GROWTH should also bear the fruit (John 15:8) of committing to GO outside one’s comfort zones, for the express purpose of making God-honoring disciples (John 14:15) who can make God-honoring disciples, who can make God-honoring disciples (2 Timothy 2:2)... with all this BE-ing done in the context of constant rejoicing, prayer, and praise (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Finally, per Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said that BE-ing IN CHRIST includes BE-ing... locally, regionally, and globally – no matter what! As 1st Peter 5:12 puts it: **“This is the true grace of God, STAND FIRM in it!”**



“SANCTIFICATION” is the Church-word for Christian GROWTH.

“DISCIPLESHIP” is the Church’s way of GROWING Christians.

“WORSHIP” is how the Christian GROWS his/her witness.

“GRACE” is God’s fertilizer for GROWING His Church.

“GROW” in Christ-likeness is what Christians want.

“SIN” is what stunts or stops Christian’s GROWTH.

“BE” GROWING is the Christian’s biblical bullseye!

No one enjoys being cross-examined or accused of having something wrong in their lives. But as we grow as Christians, we come to the painful recognition that we have an almost unlimited capacity for self-deception. We slowly learn that we need to be stopped in our tracks by God. He uses Scripture to do this...

We cannot reach our destination if we are travelling in the wrong direction.

- Sinclair B. Ferguson

Application:

The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire. Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people.

- A. W. Tozer

Colossians 1:9-11

9And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

CLOSE:

GROWING IN CHRIST is perhaps the greatest portrait of harmonized grace in all of creation. On one hand, there can be no growth without God's grace. At the same time, a person's quality and quantity of spiritual GROWTH is largely dependent upon their individual convictions & choices... their passions, priorities, and pursuits.

In light of what we have already learned, see here that the degree to which one RESPONDS TO GRACE, REPENTS OF SIN, TRUSTS THE BIBLE, and OBEYS GOD'S WORD will directly enhance or hinder their GROWING IN CHRIST. Amen and Amen.

Gradual growth in grace, growth in knowledge, growth in faith, growth in love, growth in holiness, growth in humility, growth in spiritual-mindedness - all this I see clearly taught and urged in Scripture, and clearly exemplified in the lives of many of God's saints. But sudden, instantaneous leaps from conversion to consecration I fail to see in the Bible.

- J. C. Ryle

The Christian who has stopped repenting has stopped growing.

- A. W. Pink

It is not the number of books you read, nor the variety of sermons you hear, nor the amount of religious conversation in which you mix, but it is the frequency and earnestness with which you meditate on these things till the truth in them becomes your own and part of your being, that ensures your growth.

- Frederick W. Robertson

*“To some, the pursuit of holiness sounds like [legalism](#) and man-made rules. To others, an emphasis on grace seems to open the door to irresponsible behaviors based on the notion that God’s unconditional love means we’re free to sin as we please. **Grace and the personal discipline required to pursue holiness however, go hand in hand. An understanding of how grace and personal vigorous effort work together is essential for a lifelong pursuit of holiness.**”*

- Jerry Bridges

For What?

More difficult still, apparently, is the life of ever upward growth. Most men attempt it for a time, but growth is slow; and despair overtakes them while the goal is far away.

- Henry Drummond

“We are God’s own; to him, therefore, let us live and die. We are God’s own; therefore, let his wisdom and will dominate all our actions. We are God’s own; therefore, let every part of our existence be directed towards him as our only legitimate goal.”

- John Calvin

So What?

“A spiritual life cannot be formed without discipline, practice, and accountability.”

- Henri Nouwen

A man will often have to wrestle with his God--but not for growth. The Christian life is a composed life. The Gospel is Peace. Yet the most anxious people in the world are Christians--Christians who misunderstand the nature of growth. Life is a perpetual self-condemning because they are not growing.
- Henry Drummond

“A spiritual life cannot be formed without discipline, practice, and accountability.”
- Henri Nouwen

If I have observed anything by experience, it is this: a man may take the measure of his growth and decay in grace according to his thoughts and meditations upon the person of Christ, and the glory of Christ's Kingdom, and of His love.
- John Owen

Now What?

The right manner of growth is to grow less in one's own eyes.
- Thomas Watson

“Jesus tells his followers to seek first God's kingdom, ‘and all these things will be added to you.’ We are to trust and obey God, and to follow his call in every inch of our lives, in every second of our time, and with every gift with which we have been endowed. And we are then to leave the result as well as the assessment to God...”
“...As followers of Jesus we are called to live before one audience, the audience of One... there is only one judgment that matters, and one word of approval that counts in the end: ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’”
- Os Guinness

“In this life I can never say, ‘I have arrived; it is finished; look at me—I am holy.’”
- Francis Schaeffer

“While you are competing admirably in the divine race along the course of virtue, light-footedly leaping and straining constantly for the prize of the heavenly calling, I exhort, urge, and encourage you vigorously to increase your speed.”

- Gregory of Nyssa

Colossians 2:6-7

6Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Support Sermon:

“What Do You Want?”

Luke 18:18-30

July 30, 2017

Sermon Series: Miraculous Metamorphosis