

Worship God

GROW Together

SERVE Others

GROW Together
20th October 2020



Introduction

When Jesus called his disciples to follow him, he did more than just educate them and give them information about God. He also led them into experiences and sent them out to solidify his teaching which in turn caused them to grow in their faith.

Spiritual Growth has always been a focus in churches, and on Sunday our service was focused on another significant part for of our making disciples at CPBC – GROWTH. Growth especially in love needs to be a part of every aspect of our discipleship process.

WORSHIP God

We GROW in our love for God in our Sunday worship.

GROW Together

We GROW in our love for people in small groups / fellowship groups and friendships.

SERVE Others

We GROW in our service to others through our ministry teams.

How do you learn best? The answer for everyone of us is most likely to be slightly different.

There is no one size or one method that fits all.

However, whilst we can receive teaching when we gather for worship, it is probably true to say that real spiritual growth happens in circles, not rows.

And so, we need to promote small groups and our meeting in small groups where we can cultivate meaningful relationships and friendships,

so that we can face our **need-to-grow** or our **need-to-know** moments.

those life events where we either need-to-know what the Bible says about an issue, or we need-to-grow with genuine support from and in relationship with other Christians.

Colossians 3:1-17

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Living as those made alive in Christ

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[b] ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. ¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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If you were to ask people what their most comfortable and so favourite piece of clothing is, I would suspect that the answer would be something like an old t-shirt., Over time and old T-shirt stretches where it needs to stretch and becomes comfortable because we simply just grow used to it.

Colossians 3 reminds us that from the time we are born again until we go to heaven, we are called to grow, to change, to become a reflection of Jesus, living a life of holiness and power. We are called to shake off those things in our life that we have grown used to and comfortable in (which don't honour God) and instead cloth ourselves in holy and righteous living.

I wonder, what in your life is your own earthly nature T-shirt and so needs to be cast aside? How easy do you find it to do this? And which aspect of Christ character do you need more of in your wardrobe?

QUESTIONS:

For personal reflection before the group meeting:

1. What person has most encouraged you in your spiritual growth?
2. What event/activity/season of life caused your spiritual life to grow the most?
3. At what period of your life would you describe as the time when you were closest to God?
4. What changes would you have to make in your life now to grow more spiritually?

As this part the meeting begins invite those who feel able to share very briefly some of the answers to the above questions.

In Rooms or smaller groups discuss the following and share your groups answers when we come back:

1. What warning does this passage teach us about spiritual growth?

Hebrews 5:12-13 (NLT)

“You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things a beginner must learn about the Scriptures. You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food. And a person who is living on milk isn’t very far along in the Christian life and doesn’t know much about doing what is right.”

2. How does Luke 14:27 relate to our reading from Colossians 3 and our spiritual growth?

Luke 14:27

Jesus said, “Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

How often are we to do this?

3. On Sunday Steve talked about four dimensions that are important if we are to grow spiritually

1. Engaging with God

2. Engaging with truth

3. Engaging with community

4. Engaging with experience

a) What has been your experience in these areas? (before lockdown and now?)

b) How can the church better help you to grow in these areas?

(if not meeting on Zoom, you might like to share your answer to this question to connect@cpbc.co.uk)

4. In what ways has this period of the pandemic caused you to either grow or has hindered your growth in relation to your faith?

5. What is the best way to measure Spiritual Growth as we move forward as a church?

CLOSE:

As you close take a moment to pray for one another and to give thanks to God for one another.

(Unless shown) All scriptures
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