

Growing (Part 2)

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Last week we began a new focus with a series of messages entitled GROWING.

Series Texts:

2 Peter 1:5-11

5 For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7** and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. **8** For if you **possess these qualities in increasing measure**, they will keep you from being **ineffective and unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But whoever does not have them is **nearsighted and blind, forgetting** that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **make every effort** to confirm your calling and election. For if you **do these things**, you will never stumble, **11** and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12 to equip** his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **built up 13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

Hebrews 5:12-6:1

12 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! **13** Anyone who lives on **milk**, being **still an infant**, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. **14** But **solid food** is for **the mature**, who by **constant use** have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

6 Therefore let us **move beyond** the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to **maturity**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,

There is an Expectation of Growth

There is a Presumption by many that Growth will happen automatically

But these scriptures teach us that there is also a **PRESCRIPTION** for growth

Growing in the areas of **Trust, Contentment and Thankfulness.**

As a parent, one of the things I hated was the required wellness checks for our children. They weigh them and measure them in several areas and then they show you how they are doing in comparison to other children by putting those figures on the growth chart. They show you where they “should be” if they were normal and then they show you where they actually are. Samantha’s numbers were not even on the chart for the longest time.

Spiritually there is a measure of our spiritual growth, but it isn’t made in comparison to another believer. It is made in comparison to the Word of God and to our Savior Himself

Today I want to look at another measure of our spiritual growth. Are we growing in our hatred of sin and our pursuit of righteousness, holiness, and Godliness?

2 Peter 1:5-6

5 For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, **godliness**.

Ephesians 4:13

attaining to the **whole measure of the fullness of Christ**.

Hatred of Sin

Romans 12:9

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

God’s testimony about Jesus is...

Hebrews 1:8-9

8 But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. **9** You have **loved righteousness and hated wickedness**; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

In order to hate sin, we must know what sin is, confess its presence in our lives and repent of our participation in it

- We cannot hate sin if we do not know what it is...

Romans 7:7

7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, **I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law.** For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

When Jesus told the woman caught in the act of adultery to *“go and sin no more”* he was first of all drawing her attention to the fact that what she was doing was indeed sin

The devil deceives us into believing our actions are not sin. The spirit of the antichrist in the world deceives by redefining sin so that what is evil becomes good and good evil. Our own hearts deceive us into believing our actions are not sin.

Jeremiah 17:9

9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

We don't just hate sin for what it does but because God hates it. It is the opposite of God's nature. Hating sin is more than just a feeling of dislike for something because in truth sin can be very pleasurable, at least for a season (**Hebrews 11:25**)

- Confess its presence in our lives

1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie** and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9 If we confess our sins,** he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10 If we claim we have not sinned,** we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

- Repent of our participation in it

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old** self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23 to be made new** in the attitude of your minds; **24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Galatians 5:24

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**.

1 Peter 2:24

24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, **so that we might die to sins** and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

Romans 6:6, 11

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be **done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

11 In the same way, **count yourselves dead to sin** but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Sometimes we need to be harsh with sin

Hebrews 12:4

In your **struggle** against sin, you have not yet **resisted** to the point of shedding your blood.

Are there things that you see as sin now, that you did not see as sin earlier in your Christian life?

Is there area of sin in your life that you have grown accustomed to?

Pursuit of Righteousness, Holiness, Godliness

1 Timothy 6:11-12

11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

There is a beautiful picture of the story of redemption found in Genesis 24. Before he died Abraham called his servant in and asked him to go back to his home country and get a wife for his son Isaac. Both Abraham and Sarah were grieved that Ishmael had taken wives from the Canaanite people. During his instructions to the servant Abraham told him specifically that no matter what "Don't take my son back there"

There are two lessons I want us to learn from this story...

Isaac was the son of promise and it was important that he not be exposed to the old life. In our relationship with Jesus, it is important that we not try to take him back into our old lifestyle

Secondly, I want you to see the picture of salvation. The bride is called out of her country and called to come live with the groom becoming his wife and taking on his name - not vice versa

We are called to be the bride of Christ and take on his nature, not ask him to take on ours.

Matthew 5:48

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers, good-bye. **Aim for perfection**, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and **training in righteousness**, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

How are you pursuing righteousness, holiness, and Godliness?

Name one area in which you need to grow in Christlike behavior