

“Growing in Christ”

Open: Read I Cor. 3:1-3

- Paul is writing to a church located in Corinth, Greece.
- God wanted to help this church grow spiritually. **ILL:** *Use the example of a newborn baby. It is not supposed to stay a baby forever, it is supposed to grow.*
 - If a child does not grow mentally or physically the doctors say that is abnormal.
 - When someone gets saved; but does not grow spiritually they are spiritually abnormal.
- God was stressing, to the Church of Corinth, the importance of growing spiritually. He implies that the spiritual growth to the Christian is just as important as the physical growth is to a child.

No one can grow for you. YOU have to personally grow physically and spiritually. “*Growing in Christ is not a problem to get rid of it is a process to grow through.*”

I. You need to personally be at church.

- A. Growth as a Christian requires faith. Faith can only Grow by the Word of God. **Rom. 10:17** “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”
- B. In the Bible, we are not instructed to go to church on certain days; but we are instructed to be in church as often as we can be.
 - i. As the world gets worse and worse, we should be in church more and more. **Heb. 10:25** “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*”
 - ii. We are to be more focused on being in church than we are on what day(s) we go to church **Acts 5:42** “*And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*”
- C. Before you complain about going to church 3 times a week notice the Bible says they went to church every day; and that we are to spend more time in church not less (**Heb. 10:25b**). **Acts 2:46** “*And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple...*”

II. You need to personally read your Bible.

- Going to Sunday School and Church is important and a necessary part of growing spiritually; but it is **NOT** enough.
- A. It is important that you know what God’s Word says. **II Tim. 2:15** “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”
- B. All knowledge and wisdom begins with God. If you want to truly be educated it begins with a foundational knowledge built on God’s word.
 - i. **II Peter 3:18a** “*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*”
 - ii. **Prov. 9:10** “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*”
 - iii. **Prov. 1:7** “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

III. You need to personally pray.

- It is important that you learn to go to your heavenly Father and tell him what you need.
- A. **Luke 18:1** *“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”*
- B. **I Peter 3:12a** *“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers...”*
- C. **Jude 1:20** *“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*
 - We should not always depend on the government or mom and dad to give us what we need. A part of growing up is learning to depend on God for our needs.

IV. You need to personally spend time meditating on and memorizing God’s Word.

- A. I cannot please God with my thoughts and actions unless they obey Gods Words; and my thoughts and actions will not obey Gods word if I am constantly thinking about what my flesh wants to do.
Ps. 19:14 *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*
- B. Memorizing scripture helps to remind me of what is right to do, when no one else is around t remind me what of what I am supposed to be doing. **Ps. 119:11** *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*
- C. I can not obey the word of God if I do not know what the Word of God says. **Ps. 119:9** *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”*

V. You need to personally tell others about what God has done for you.

- Matt. 5:13-16** *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. [14] Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. [15] Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*
- A. Tell them about how you got saved. **John 4:35** *“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”*
- B. Tell them about what church you go to.
- C. Tell them about what you got from your Bible reading.

Close:

- **G** – Giving God your obedience to his commands.
- **R** – Reading your Bible every day.
- **O** – Obeying those who have rule over you.
- **W** – Witness for Jesus to other boys and girls.
- **I** – Invite others to come to church with you.
- **N** – New verses from God’s Word hid in your heart.
- **G** – Giving time in Prayer every day.

II Peter 3:18a

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”