

Habits of Grace: How We Grow

Habits: Spiritual disciplines practiced with our bodies, mostly in normal life, rooted in the local church.

Grace: Growth in godliness is a gift of God through the kind ministry of the Holy Spirit.



Habits of Grace

1. Word
2. Prayer
3. Worship
4. Giving
5. Serving
6. Proclamation
7. Fellowship
8. Suffering
9. Missions



The goal of growth:

Intimacy with and enjoyment of God which bears fruit and glorifies him = working out the gospel.

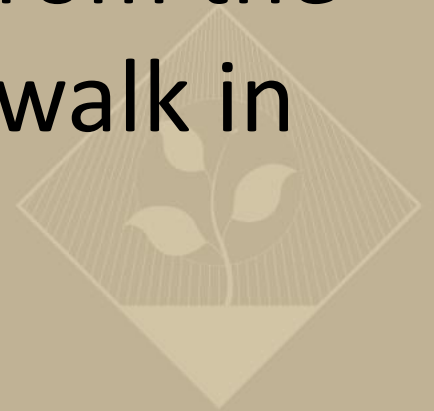
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,
1 Peter 3:18



The goal of growth:

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We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4



Habits of Grace

Habits of grace should all be rooted in the local church

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Heb 10:24-25



We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

1 John 3:14

The Church as Building

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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Peter 2:4-10

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:18-19

BUILDING ON THE SURE FOUNDATION



The Disciple of Christ

The Under-Shepherds of Christ
(Church Leaders)

The Church of Christ

The Word of Christ

Jesus Christ

“The Church is the spiritual family of God, the Christian fellowship created by the Holy Spirit through the testimony to the mighty acts of God in Christ Jesus. [the church is] a supernatural entity which is in process of growth towards the world to come. It is the sphere of the action of the risen and ascended Lord. All its members are in Christ and are knit together by a supernatural kinship.

All their gifts and activities continue the work of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, originate from Christ, and are coordinated by him to the final goal. Then the church will appear in the age to come as the one people of God united in one congregation before the throne, as the one celestial city—the new Jerusalem.

“Our Lord Jesus Christ is the sun about which the whole mission of the church revolves. Public worship is the encounter of the risen Redeemer with his people; evangelism is calling men to the Savior; publishing the law of God is proclaiming his lordship;

Christian nurture is feeding his lambs and disciplining his flock; ministering to the needs of men is continuing the work of the Great Physician.”

R. G. Clouse, EDT

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Heb 10:25).

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you” (Heb 13:17)

Matt 18:15, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector



Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

The weakest Christians are those least connected to the body. And the less involved you are, the more disconnected those following you will be. The man who attempts Christianity without the church shoots himself in the foot, shoots his children in the leg, and shoots his grandchildren in the heart.”

Kevin DeYoung

"Only that fellowship which faces such disillusionment, with all its unhappy and ugly aspects, begins to be what it should be in God's sight, begins to grasp in faith the promise that is given to it."

Bonhoeffer

Your congregation's decision to accept a list of new members is more significant in the long-term than a presidential election. The United States, after all, is but a vapor in the vast sweep of cosmic time. Our churches, however, point to the future kings and queens of the universe, where there are no term limits. If we are to be credible, we must recover meaningful membership, church discipline, and congregations that tear down carnal distinctions as we point to kingdom communities that are at peace with God and with one another, and at war with the devil.

Russell Moore

"When I first became a Christian I thought that I could do it on my own, by retiring to my rooms and reading theology and I wouldn't go to the churches...I disliked very much their hymns which I considered to be fifth-rate poems set to sixth-rate music. But as I went on, I saw the great merit of it.

I came up against different people of quite different outlooks and different education, and then gradually my conceit just began peeling off. I realized that the hymns were being sung with devotion and benefit by an old saint in elastic-side boots in the opposite pew, and then you realize that you aren't fit to clean those boots. It gets you out of your solitary comfort."

-C.S. Lewis, God In The Dock