

GROW IN GRACE

BRO ZACHARIAH WILBER / SUN. APRIL 3, 2022

MAIN FOCUS

As we grow individually and as a body we **MUST** grow in grace. Spiritual growth isn't sustainable without grace.

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18 ESV)

BUILDING BLOCKS OF GRACE

FORGIVENESS

1. In Scripture
 - a. “See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;” (Hebrews 12:15 ESV)
2. Is having a victim mentality keeping you from growing?
 - a. How does our unwillingness to forgive make us victims?
 - b. How does a “victim mentality” affect our ability to respond to circumstances?
 - c. How has hurt changed you from who you were before those hurtful events occurred?
3. Recognizing Unforgiveness
 - a. What characteristics in your life might indicate that you haven't fully forgiven past hurts, even if you know in your head what you need to do?

MERCY

1. In Scripture
 - a. ““Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy”. (Matthew 5:7 ESV)

- b. “For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” (James 2:13 ESV)
 - c. “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36 ESV)
2. Mercy in a Cruel World
- a. Are there ways we have forgotten to show and extend mercy in our culture? Why do you think this has happened?
 - b. What are some of the things that make it difficult to be merciful, especially in our daily interactions with co-workers, friends, or family? How can we overcome these challenges and show mercy?
 - c. Do our guests recognize that we are a merciful church? What does a merciful church look like?

SERVING

1. In the Scripture
- a. “But made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:7 ESV)
 - b. “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God” (1 Peter 2:16 ESV) **This portion of scripture is speaking about submission to authority**
2. Serving with a Selfish Heart
- a. Do we make serving others about ourselves?
 - b. Is serving others selfishly worse than not serving others at all?
 - c. What are the wrong motivations for serving?
 - d. What are good motivations for serving?
3. Seeking Opportunities to Serve?
- a. What are ways you and your family have served others?
 - b. How does serving others allow the church to grow in grace?

FINAL POINTS: Ways to mature in grace

1. Learn the Word
2. Attend Church
3. Fellowship with Christians
4. Spend Time in Prayer