

GROWTRACK

SESSION #4: WORK

Welcome to GROWTrack Session 4, let's pray and we'll dive right in...

The "W" in G.R.O.W. stands for "WORK".

Before we get started on looking at the actual "work" we are all called to, I want to emphasize that "how" we go about our work as it relates to God's kingdom is the key.

Read: Colossians 3:23-24 (NASB)

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people, 24 knowing that it is from the Lord that you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

- "Heartily" means "vital breath, the soul, the very seat of feelings desires, and affections". (soul work from the depth of you...it's about what it expresses to the Lord...give example of a deadbeat Dad).

May the Lord Jesus be central in all that we do and for Him alone be the reason that we do it!

- **Point #1: We are called to the work of UNITY.**

- **Read: Ephesians 4:1-6 (NASB)**

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

- "Walk in a manner"...
- This means to "live a life" that is "fitting or becoming" of the "invitation" (calling) received. (i.e., Dress accordingly)
- The character defined in verse 2 is the dress code for the keeping of unity.
 - Lowliness of mind which expresses power with reserve.
 - Patience is a willingness to "suffer-long" on behalf of another.
 - "Bearing with one another in love" means to "hold up and endure with" in "love", which is agape with a focus on preference, which means "to prefer another".
- (Vs. 3) "Be diligent to keep" means to "endeavor, work, and to be attentive" to keep or to "guard or watch over" the "unity", which means "oneness or unanimity"! (family example)
 - This means (unity of the Spirit) "oneness of the Spirit" and represents the Holy Spirit, by which we are all sealed and joined in to together.
 - We don't create unity, we are, however, called to keep it. We are either agreeable and building up or are disagreeable and divisive to that truth.

- Our commitment to unity should be fueled by the value that Jesus Himself placed on it. As you'll see here...it's everything.

- **Read: John 17:13-21 (NASB)**

13 But now I am coming to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them away from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 Just as You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, so that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. 20 "I am not asking on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, 21 that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- If our oneness (agreement, unity) is one of the reasons for the world to believe in Jesus, then our divisiveness (disagreement, disunity) would be directly related to why many *don't* believe.

- **Point #2: We are called to the work of MINISTRY.**

- **Read: Ephesians 4:11-13 (NASB)**

11 And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

- **You are being equipped for work (of ministry)...**

- **Definition: EQUIPPING** (katartismos = mend, repair, make whole or perfect, of setting bones, mending nets) means to make something or someone (in this case the "sheep" in the flock) completely adequate or sufficient for something.
 - The idea is that of putting a thing into the condition in which it ought to be.
- **Definition: WORK** (érgon = a work or worker who accomplishes something, a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an inner desire (intension, purpose).
- **Definition: MINISTRY** or Service (diakonia means the rendering or assistance or help by performing certain duties, often of a humble or menial nature, including such mundane activities as waiting on tables or caring for household needs—activities that in men's eyes (but not God's!) are without apparent dignity.
 - Also means "*go-between or one that delivers*".
- This work is for the *benefit of all* to build up the body of Christ.
- Listening to messages on Sunday mornings alone will not make you grow and mature in your faith.
 - Spiritual growth does not always involve learning something new. Our most important growth often is in regard to truth we have already heard but have not yet fully applied.

- We are ALL called to the work of ministry (serving & bringing)!
- **Quote:** *“It is better to put ten men to work than to do the work of ten men”*. D.L. Moody
- **Point #3: We are called to the work of OBEDIENCE.** (The heart of the Gospel)

- **Read: Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)**

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- **WE work TOGETHER as a body of believers to FULFILL the GREAT COMMISSION. THIS IS OUR HIGH CALL!** (are we being obedient to this call?)
- Remembering that your ***obedience*** is greater than your ***sacrifice***.
- Remembering to be motivated by a desire to be ***faithful to God***.
- Remembering that this kingdom mandate is ***THE*** rally cry for ALL Christians.

When we are committed to **Gather, Receive, Offer, and Work** or to **G.R.O.W.** this is a picture in scripture of what that will look like...

Read: Ephesians 4:14-16 (NASB)

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Questions

Pray