

LOVE ×

John 13:34-35 × ONE

ANOTHER ×

## Let's Help Each Other Grow

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. **Romans 8:29&30 NLT**

### INTRODUCTION:

Growing in likeness to Christ is a goal of every follower of Jesus. God desires for each of us to grow in character. The Bible tells us that God "chose us to become like His Son." So, the question that begs to be answered is, "How do I grow in Christlikeness?" We will soon begin 40 Days of Community through which we will be challenged to practice the "one another" commands of the New Testament. "One anothering" obviously cannot be done alone. To grow in Christlikeness we need each other. How do we help each other grow? We all need others. That's why we talk so much about Life Groups. As we get ready to embark on 40 Days of Community, we'll take a look at how we can help each other grow and everyone will be encouraged to participate in a Life Group. You have to have other people to help you grow.

### CENTRAL IDEA:

All who are followers of Christ, are called to GROW, to be like Christ!

Let's Help Each Other Grow . . .

- **BY RECOGNIZING EACH OTHERS DIVINE DIGNITY**

- We all possess the 'imago dei.'

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27 NLT**

1. Extend ACCEPTANCE.

We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. 2 We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. 3 For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me." 4 Such things were written in the Scriptures

long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

**Romans 15:1-7 NLT**

2. Express AFFECTION.

9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11

Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. [1] 12 Rejoice in our confident

hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready

to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. **Romans 12:9-13 NLT**

Let's Help Each Other Grow . . .

- **BY ENCOURAGING EACH OTHERS COMMITMENT**

1. To LOVE AND HONOR GOD WHOLEHEARTEDLY

Love the Lord your God with your whole heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. **Mark 12:30**

2. To PROTECT THE UNITY OF OUR CHURCH

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus. **Romans 15:5**

3. To SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR CHURCH

And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. **Luke 14:23**

4. To SERVE IN THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **1 Peter 4:10**

5. To SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF OUR CHURCH

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, **Philippians 1:27**

6. To GROW SPIRITUALLY

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. **2 Timothy 2:15**

## What's Next?

To Respond electronically, text **CONNECT** to 228.265.5020

To Find a LIFE GROUP, text **GROUP** to 228.265.5020

### START

I received Christ for the first time.

I rededicated my life to Christ.

### NEXT STEP

I am interested in being baptized

I am interested in a Life Group

I'd like to talk with a Pastor

### GET INVOLVED

I want to become a member

I want to serve

I want to start a Life Group

## LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How do we become more like Jesus? (Romans 8:29)
2. What's one spiritual discipline that will help you become more like Jesus that you'd like to grow in this year? (bible reading, prayer, service, evangelism, etc.) What are a few specific ways you could plan for growth in that area? To whom can you share this goal and ask for accountability?
3. How does recognizing the "image of God" in others impact our spiritual growth?
4. How have you been positively impacted by someone extending acceptance or expressing affection to you? Which is more difficult for you, extending acceptance or expressing affection?
5. How can you encourage others to commit to the SIX areas listed (to love and honor god wholeheartedly , to protect the unity of our church , to share in the responsibility of our church to serve in the ministry of our church, to support the testimony of our church , to grow spiritually)?  
In what area do you most need encouragement and how can someone best encourage you?
6. What is the value of doing life together in community, in a Life Group?
7. What are your expectations for this week as a result of this message?