

Grow

July 23, 2017

I. Introduction

A. The vision of Calvary Church is Life Change.

B. Life Change happens when we Connect, Grow and Serve together.

II. What Does It Mean To Grow?

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1. Growth Is A Choice.

A. Spiritual growth doesn't just happen.

Hebrews 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

- It is possible to grow older and fail to be more mature.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

B. When we do our part, God always does His part.

- Grace without growth makes God just an acquaintance.

2. The Bible Is Our Book

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

A. The Bible sets the standard for what we believe and how we live.

Luke 8:11 This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

- The seed of spiritual growth is the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

B. The Bible is more than just a book.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

1. The Bible is consistent.
2. The Bible is authentic.
3. The Bible is reliable.

“The canon is not an authoritative collection of books, but a collection of authoritative books.” ~ Bruce Metzger

C. For there to be truth there must be a standard.

1. Volume does not equal truth.

John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- The laws of man can never override the laws of God.
 - Just because I want something to be true does not mean that it is true.
2. Times changes. Truth does not.
 - We must filter what we think through the lens of the Bible, and not filter the Bible through the lens of what we think.

1 John 2:14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

3. *Intimacy Comes From Proximity.*

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

A. There is no intimacy without proximity.

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1. It is not possible to stay close to God unless you stay close to God.
2. A love for God will lead to a love for God's Word.

Psalms 119:97-105 Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

B. Three Questions To Ask Of Scripture:

1. What?
2. So What?
3. Now What?

C. We start struggling when we stop talking.

Psalms 73:28 But as for me, it is good to be near God.

1. Good reasons can still lead to bad results.
2. Intimacy comes from time and trust.