

- How does what we've been talking about translate to Grace being **a church family committed to connecting with others to grow together in Jesus** ... What God is doing in each of us He wants to do through each of us ... Thus, your personal transformation as a disciple of Jesus bears greatly on the transformation of the church you're part of ... **Ep4:12** – gifted leaders are **to equip the saints for the work of ministry – to build up the body of Christ** ... **Ep4:16** – **from Christ, the whole body promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part**
- When it comes to growing in maturity as disciples, we believe 3 key relationships need to be growing proportionally: 1) relationship with God, 2) relationship with those in Christ, 3) relationship with those not yet in Christ ... These relationships are also expressed as: your “UP” relationship, your “IN” relationship, your “OUT” relationship ... Being a disciple of Jesus, how are growing in these 3 relationships ... UP+IN–OUT= Sheltered ... UP+OUT–IN= Isolated ... IN+OUT–UP= Powerless ... At Grace, we use the terms: **Abide, Grow, Connect**
- **Abide in Jesus** ... As from our Belonging flows our Believing and Transformation ... So, from our Abiding flows our Growing and Connecting (1Jo3:16, 18-19, 23-24) ... What this looks like: prayer, Scripture, music, confessing and receiving, aligning life around Him, walking by faith in Him
- **Growing as a Family** ... Because we belong to Christ, we belong to each other (Rm12:5) ... We're dependent on one another – relationships that are intentional and reciprocal ... As those who've passed from death to life, we're to be about giving life, not taking life ... The life you've been given isn't meant for you alone ... You're called to lay down your life for others, just as Christ Himself did for you ... **Lay down our lives:** good of others before yourself, exhibit humility over pride, be vulnerable not fake or self-reliant, seek forgiveness not bitterness
 - Love gives life (vs16) ... Hate takes life (vs15) ... When you hate another person, you cease to care about them, associate with them, support them; any type of relating to them is superficial ... It's hard to follow the “one another” commands of the Bible with a person you hate ... **Marshall: Hatred is incompatible with spiritual life ... the person who hates another wants to deprive him of life** ... This isn't the way of Christ ... Nor is it the way a body is to treat itself ... **1Jo4:19-21**
 - You may not view your actions towards others as “hateful”, but how are your actions being perceived by others ... Whether your intention is to be hateful or not, if that's how people perceive your actions and words, you need to rectify things ... Why? Because if we belong to Christ, then we belong to each other
 - We grow as a family because that's who we are in Christ ... It's not your job to fix people, or to force people to take on your convictions ... Your job is to walk beside others as the Holy Spirit guides with His word
- **Connecting with our neighbors** ... Don't be surprised by the world's resistance (vs13) ... The world rejects the truth concerning Jesus Christ and man's need for a Savior ... Still, Jesus enters the world to save individuals (1Jo4:9) ... Jesus sends you into the world so people can receive the gospel and the life Jesus purchased for them – **Jo20:21**

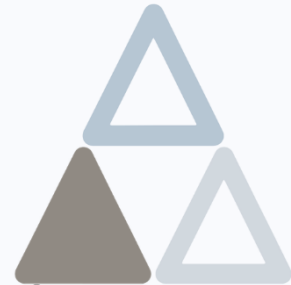
CONNECTING WITH OTHERS TO GROW TOGETHER IN JESUS



Abide IN JESUS



Grow AS A FAMILY



Connect WITH OUR NEIGHBORS