

The Fellowship of Growth in Christ

Lesson Six:

Walking to Please Jesus

“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the [satisfaction] for our sins.” (1 John 4:9-10)

How would you sum up what it means for a Christian to grow in Christ?

Growth in Christ means that we are becoming more like Jesus in all we think, say, and do.

Paul sums up our spiritual growth:

“My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you...” (Gal. 4:19)

To the Romans: God working all things to their good as they walk in love with the Lord so that they would be conformed to the image of His Son. (Rom. 8:28-29)

To the Corinthians, a process: “...we all... beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Cor. 3:18)

Where do we behold the glory and majesty of Jesus?

In His word where He reveals Himself to us. Scripture is the mirror reflecting the glory of Jesus to us.

The more we look in the mirror of the glory of Jesus reflected in the Bible, the more His image is then reflected in us in increasing degrees.

Paul says this spiritual transformation into Christlikeness is “*from the Lord, the Spirit.*”

We are becoming like Jesus as we learn to live to please Him.

This is an important truth for Paul's theology of walking with the Lord in obedient faith.

Do I live to please Jesus in all that I think, say, and do? What does living to please Jesus look like in my life?

Your lifestyle reveals the loyalties of your heart. How you live reveals what you are most devoted to, what you trust in and live for.

Would all that you thought, said, and did be pleasing to Jesus?

Would it reflect your heart being always submitted to pleasing Jesus in all things?

If we are honest, *no*.

The presence of remaining sin in our hearts is why we must say *no*. We need to have the Bible teach us what is involved in walking to please Jesus while, at the same time, dealing with deceitful desires.

This brings us back to our personal investment in our spiritual growth.

“Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord... we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Here is a little talked-about aspect of pleasing the Lord:

Pleasing Jesus involves ambition. We bring this to the table of our Christlikeness.

This is a heaven-born ambition, not the self-seeking, prideful ambition of the world.

Ambition = *philos* + *time* (honor)

Godly ambition is loving what is honorable.

How much of your life is based on what is honorable to God? How do we put that love for what God honors into a God-honoring pursuit for our life?

We commit ourselves to the godly ambition of learning what is pleasing to Jesus.

It is right for us to strive after—to be ambitious toward—living a Jesus-pleasing life. We should make what is honorable to God our goal for Christian living and growth in Christ.

“... you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord....” (Eph. 5:8)

“... walk as children of Light trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Eph 5:8, 10)

John 8:28-29

2 Corinthians 5:7

Paul’s new self, new life, and new walk all come by faith. We are saved by faith; we live by faith; we persevere by faith—so that our faith in Jesus is the most fundamental aspect separating us from darkness, death, fear, anxiety, worry, and—especially—unbelief.

Paul commended the Colossians that he rejoiced to see their good discipline and the stability of their faith in Christ.

Then he told them to bring this spiritual discipline and stable faith to their daily walk with Jesus:

“Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.” (Col. 2:6-7)

Our trust in Jesus needs to grow!

The spiritual exercise of our faith happens during everyday life as we face challenges, trials, heartaches, unknowns, doubts, and other matters of life.

In whatever you are facing, you have one primary, life-defining goal in your desire to be more like Jesus: trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

The circumstance is an opportunity for you to trust and obey by grace through faith in Jesus.

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