Sermon Notes for September 27, 2015

The Normal Christian Life – Grow

Colossians 2:6-7

Introduction

When we become a Christian, it is expected that we will grow in our relationship with Christ.

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6-7

If we are not growing in our relationship with Christ, the reason is usually:

- Sin or disobedience.
- Lack of knowledge. We don’t know how to grow.
- We are not really a Christian.

How do we grow in our faith?

I. We need a plan.

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13

God wants his church to be built up, united and growing.

God wants us to become mature in Christ.

(Show our discipleship pathway.)

Where are you on your spiritual journey? What comes next?

II. We need a good diet.

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” 1 Peter 2:2-3

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8
We will not become godly if we are filling our mind with junk.
Fill your mind with Scripture.
Fill your mind with good Christian books.

III. We need exercise.

“Train yourselves 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.” I Timothy 4:7-8

Think of how much money we spend to get fit and stay fit.

• Health clubs take in about $30 billion per year.
• Americans also spend over $30 billion a year on athletic apparel.

For the believer, exercise comes in the forms of:

• Obedience, James 1:22
• Spiritual Disciplines – Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship, Worship and Stewardship.
• Evangelism and Discipleship – Making Disciples
• Service – Using our gifts to serve others.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” II Timothy 2:2

IV. We need a buddy.

We need someone who can help us to grow and hold us accountable.

When Jesus sent out the disciples he sent them two by two. Mark 6:7

We need to build into the lives of others.

“Discipleship is intentionally equipping believers with the Word of God through accountable relationships empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to replicate faithful followers of Christ.” Robby Gallaty

V. We need rest.

We can’t keep the bow taut all the time or it will break.

“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” Luke 5:16

No one can help people who is always with people.

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” Mark 2:27
God gave us the Sabbath as a day for spiritual, mental and physical refreshment.

Conclusion

Do you want to have a closer relationship with God?

Keep growing in your faith.

The normal Christian life is a life of growth.

The reward for growth is a well ordered life.

It’s the life you’ve always wanted.