

Good News About Grace - part 6 GROWING IN GRACE

Grace and Growth

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

Growth is not . . . how many

Growth is . . . a process of change

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Eph. 4:22-24 (NIV)

1. Put Off The Old

Trying to grow by doing good

"Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both will be preserved." Matt. 9:17 (NIV)

Trying to grow by keeping rules

"Your hearts should be strengthened by God's grace, not by obeying rules. . ." Heb. 13:9 (NCV)

Trying to grow by feeling bad

"Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? No! For he is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us. . ." Rom. 8:34 (LB)

2. Put On The New

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)

1. We don't have to achieve our new life

2. We don't have to keep our new life

"Your old sinful self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God." Col. 3:3 (NCV)

3. We do have to put on our new life

3. Be Renewed In Your Mind

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." Rom. 12:2 (NLT)

"You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now are you trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish." Gal. 3:3 (NCV)

2 Questions:

Why does it take so long? We're valuable to God.

Where do I get started? Trust

"...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil. 1:6 (NIV)

"For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants." Phil. 2:13 (LB)

"Everything - and I do mean everything - connected with that old way of life has to go...Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life - a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you." Eph. 4:22-24 (Message)