

SPIRITUAL GROWTH Part 1

The Ultimate Aim of Being a Follower of Jesus

Colossians 3:1-17

MAIN POINT: The ultimate goal of following Jesus is the glory of God.

CORE TRUTH – Success in moving towards living for the glory of God = **Any growth of any person towards following Jesus more fully.**

This statement tells us that, regardless of where anyone one is in their spiritual journey, there is always room to grow. It also communicates that even the smallest step towards following Jesus more fully is important and worth celebrating.

In order for us to experience the kind of spiritual growth that God desires for us, we must understand that the destination of growth is the Glory of God. If we aim at anything else then we will miss out on God's best.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism states it like this, "*What is the chief end of man? The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.*" Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*"

READ TOGETHER: COLLOSAINS 3:1-17

Discussion Question: How would you sum up this passage in your own words?

Verse 17 says, "Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus"

Key Insight: *To do something "in the name" of another is to do it on behalf of that person and for the interests and purpose of that person. To live for the glory of God then is to pursue to live for the purposes of God.*

Discussion Questions:

- How do verses 1-3 relate to "doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus"?
- Based on verses 5-13, how can we know if we are growing in living for God's glory?

Growing as someone who lives for the glory of God is a process. The vast majority of the change that happens in our lives is slow and little by little.

Discussion Questions:

- *What do you think it means to put to death what is earthly (v. 5), "put then away the old self" (v. 8), and to put on the "new self" (v. 10) in reference to living for God's glory?*
- Verse 14 says, "*Above all put on love*". In what way does loving one another relate to living for God's glory?

SHARE: Spend a few minutes allowing people to share how they have experienced God's work in their life. This can be something small, big, recent or further in the past.

Question: How can we as a community of people help each other live more consistently for God's glory?

Closing: Spend time praying for God to continue work in each other's lives and that He would grow you in to a community that encourages each other's growth towards glorifying God more.