



Grow n
Week 1: The WHY
September 13th

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9/13 th | 10/18 th | 11/22 nd |
| 9/20 th | 10/25 th | 11/29 th – ADVENT |
| 9/27 th | 11/1 st | 12/6 th – WNC Tmas Party? |
| 10/4 th | 11/8 th | 12/ 13 th – Family Worship |
| 10/11 th | 11/15 th | |

Resource: How People Grow by Cloud/Townsend and Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster
Cloud, H., & Townsend, J. (2009). [*How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth*](#). Zondervan.

Luke 2:52 HCSB

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

And as Jesus continued to grow in body and mind, he grew also in the love of God and of those who knew him. PHILLIPS

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. NIV

And Yeshua/Jesus grew both in wisdom and in stature, gaining favor both with other people and with God. CJB

Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people. CEB

Jesus grew: [quadrant growth]

- Intellectually
- Physically
- Spiritually
- Socially

ASK: What actions (in one or two words) would you assign to growth in each of these areas?

Define Sanctification (using answers from the board):

- Process
- Transformation

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at ^{[a](A)} the glory of the Lord ^(B) and are **being transformed ^(C) into the same image ^(D)** from glory to glory, ^[b] this is from the Lord who is the Spirit. ^[c] **HCSB**



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The Long-term Goal of Grow n:

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And **God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him.** ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. **NLT**

"The Gospel promotes human growth."
Henry Cloud

What does reconciliation look like? Does it match sanctification?

Sanctification as Process:

Do a scenario and...

- Focusing on what is here and now = (us trying to fix it)
Here is the problem. Stop doing the problem. Stop doing the problem. Stop doing the problem.
- Focusing on what should be =
 - Where is God in your world?
 - Where is your community?
 - How does scripture influence your life choices?

Ephesians 4:18

*Their minds are full of darkness; **they wander far from the life God gives** because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. **NLT***

Come to God.

Find a healthy church.

Love scripture enough so it can guide you in this fallen world.

THE END

Spiritual growth is **not only** about coming back into a relationship with God and each other, and about pursuing a pure life, **but it is also** about *coming back to life*— **the life that God created for people to live.**¹

IS THIS HOW GOD CREATED LIFE HERE ON EARTH TO BE?

¹ Cloud, H., & Townsend, J. (2009). *How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth*. Zondervan.



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1. How is life designed to be lived? What is it supposed to look like?
2. What happened in the Fall to change how life was designed?
3. What is the problem we are trying to fix?
4. What is redemption and what does it do? How do we get there?

Cloud, H., & Townsend, J. (2009). [*How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth*](#). Zondervan.

THE WHY.

THE BACKGROUND OF THE NEED FOR: WHY SANCTIFICATION AND WHAT SANCTIFICATION IS FOR

A. CREATION (The Fall. Redemption.)

God is the Source

Genesis 1: 1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. NLT

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.^[a]

² Now the earth was^[b] formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, HCSB

John 1:1-3

In the beginning^(a) was the Word,^[a]^(b)

and the Word was with God,

and the Word was God.^(c)

² He was with God in the beginning.^(d)

³ All things were created^(e) through Him,^(e)

and apart from Him not one thing was created

that has been created. **HCSB**

Nothing was in creation before God, and everything that exists came from him. This includes all the “stuff” of life—the resources, the principles, the purposes, the meaning—everything. He is the Source, period.² Henry Cloud

² Cloud, H., & Townsend, J. (2009). [*How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth*](#). Zondervan.



God wants Relationship

God wants relationship (community) with and for us.

- We are created for relationship with Him.

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us[Ⓣ] make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.[Ⓣ] They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth,[Ⓣ] and the creatures that crawl[Ⓣ] on the earth."[Ⓣ]

²⁷ So God created man in His own image;
He created him in the image of God;
He created them male and female.[Ⓣ] **HCSB**

- This same created being is here today:

Ephesians 4:22-24

²² You took off[Ⓣ] your former way of life,[Ⓣ] the old self[Ⓣ] that is corrupted by deceitful desires; ²³ you are being renewed[Ⓣ] in the spirit[Ⓣ] of your minds; ²⁴ you put on[Ⓣ] the new self, the one created[Ⓣ] according to God's likeness[Ⓣ] in righteousness and purity of the truth.
HCSB

- We are created for relationship with one another.

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement." **HCSB**

¹⁸ And the Lord God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; Ⓣ* I will make him a helper comparable to him." **NKJV**

Genesis 2:20-25

²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man[Ⓣ] no helper was found as his complement. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man,[Ⓣ] and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. ²² Then the Lord God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.[Ⓣ] ²³ And the man said:

*This one, at last, is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called "woman,"
for she was taken from man.[Ⓣ]*

²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.[Ⓣ] ²⁵ **Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.** **HCSB**

WHAT would life without shame be like?



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ASK: What are we ashamed of ?

Not ashamed of your family.
Not ashamed of your choices
Not ashamed of your looks

We have been created for community. We have been created to be vulnerable with one another. We have been created to flourish.

No shame
No fear
No hiding

We have been created for INTIMACY

God is the Boss

He is the source. He is the boss.

What happens when we take on the role of boss?

Genesis 2:15-17

*¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden," ¹⁷ but you must not eat[Ⓜ] from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, **you will certainly die.**"[Ⓜ] HCSB*

So, what dies?

Roles of God ● Roles of People

a. God's Role – Source/Provider ● Our Role – Depend on this Source

- God is the source. We depend on the source.
- God is the Creator. We are the creation.
- God provides. We depend and trust.
- God has no limits. We are limited.

WE ARE NOT SELF SUFFICIENT. WE ARE NOT INDEPENDENT.

We have been designed FOR dependency. AGAINST self-sufficiency.

We are to recognize our limits and look outside of our limits for life fulfillment.



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COMMUNITY.

b. God’s Role – Be in CONTROL ● Our Role – YIELD

(To God’s Control of the world and to control our self)

God created. Humans did not.

God put them in their Environment(Garden). Humans did not control that choice.

God created animals and vegetation.

God was in control of the universe and what happened.

HE OWNED THE BIG PICTURE.

The Serenity Prayer God grant me the serenity To accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; And wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world As it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right If I surrender to His Will; So that I may be reasonably happy in this life And supremely happy with Him Forever and ever in the next. Amen.

https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/famous_prayers/god_grant_me_the_serenity.html

c. God was the Judge of Life ● We are to Experience Life

God knows Good from Evil. We do not.

d. God made the Rules ● We are to Obey them

B. THE FALL (Creation.Redemption)

- a. I do not need a source – independence
- b. I do not need relationship
- c. Reversed who was the judge.
- d. Reversed roles

5. THEY REVERSED THE ROLES. Here are the roles as God created them:

God

God is the Source
God is the Creator

God has control of the world
God was the judge of life
God designed life and its rules

Humans

We depend on God
We are the creation and cannot exist unto ourselves

We have control of ourselves
We are to experience life
We obey the rules and live the life God designed



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The Change:

The Desire

We are the source
We are the creator
We have control of the world

We become the judge of life

We design life and the rules

The Result

We depend on ourselves
We exist unto ourselves
We try to control our world and each other,
losing control of ourselves
We judge ourselves and each other and
cease to be able to experience ourselves and
each other
We live any way we want to³

God

God is the Source
God is the Creator
God has control of the world
God was the judge of life
God designed life and its rules

Humans

We depend on God
We are the creation and cannot exist unto ourselves
We have control of ourselves
We are to experience life
We obey the rules and live the life God designed

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C. REDEMPTION (Creation.The Fall)

- Return to Source

How does this framing affect the way we understand/interpret:

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God^[a] and His righteousness,^[b] and all these things will be provided for you.^[c] **HCSB**

Matthew 5:3

The poor in spirit are blessed,^[a] for the kingdom of heaven^[b] is theirs. **HCSB**

“Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. **CEB**

- Return to Relationship – with God and with one another

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.^[a] ³⁸ This is the greatest and most important^[b] command. ³⁹ The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.^[c] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend^[d] on these two commands.”^[e] **HCSB**

³⁷ He replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being,^[a] and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” **CEB**

³ Cloud, H., & Townsend, J. (2009). [How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth](#). Zondervan.



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- Return to the Order
- Return to the Roles

God

God is the Source
God is the Creator

God has control of the world
God was the judge of life
God designed life and its rules

Humans

We depend on God
We are the creation and cannot exist unto ourselves
We have control of ourselves
We are to experience life
We obey the rules and live the life God designed

The Desire

We are the source
We are the creator
We have control of the world

We become the judge of life

We design life and the rules

The Result

We depend on ourselves
We exist unto ourselves
We try to control our world and each other, losing control of ourselves
We judge ourselves and each other and cease to be able to experience ourselves and each other
We live any way we want to⁴

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

³⁰ But it is from Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became God-given wisdom for us—our righteousness,^(a) sanctification,^(a) and redemption,^(a) ³¹ in order that, as it is written:^(b) The one who boasts must boast in the Lord.^(c) HCSB

This is how we're Grow n.

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

⁴ Cloud, H., & Townsend, J. (2009). [How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth](#). Zondervan.



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26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And He chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; He made us pure and holy, and He freed us from sin. 31 Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord." NLT

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, 29 so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30 In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." NRSV

NOTES:

Genesis 1:1-3a In the beginning^(A) God created the heavens and the earth.^{(B)(C)}

² Now the earth was^(D) formless and empty,^(E) darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.^(F) ³ Then God said,

a.

[Psalm 90:2 HCSB](#)

Before the mountains were born, before You gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity...

[Psalm 102:12 HCSB](#)

But You, Lord, are enthroned forever; Your fame endures to all generations.

[Isaiah 40:21 HCSB](#)

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have...

[John 1:1-3 HCSB](#)



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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God...

[Ephesians 3:21 HCSB](#)

to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

b.

[Nehemiah 9:6 HCSB](#)

You alone are Yahweh. You created the heavens, the highest heavens with all their host, the...

[Isaiah 40:12-14 HCSB](#)

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens with the span of...

[Isaiah 43:7 HCSB](#)

everyone called by My name and created for My glory. I have formed him; indeed, I have made him."

[Jeremiah 10:12-16 HCSB](#)

He made the earth by His power, established the world by His wisdom, and spread out the heavens...

[Amos 4:13 HCSB](#)

He is here: the One who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man,...

[Romans 1:25 HCSB](#)

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served something created instead of...

[1 Corinthians 11:9 HCSB](#)

And man was not created for woman, but woman for man.

[Colossians 1:16 HCSB](#)

For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible,...

[Revelation 4:11 HCSB](#)

Our Lord and God, You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because You have created...

c.

[Jeremiah 4:23 HCSB](#)

I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty. I looked to the heavens, and their light...

d.

[Job 26:13 HCSB](#)

By His breath the heavens gained their beauty; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

[Job 33:4 HCSB](#)

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

[Psalms 33:6 HCSB](#)

The heavens were made by the word of the Lord, and all the stars, by the breath of His mouth.

[Psalms 104:30 HCSB](#)

When You send Your breath, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.

“When we are with people, what we are comes out.” Richard Foster



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1. The Conditions of the Way

Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5)

Paul goes on to state the characteristics of the mind which we are to form, viz., the mind which was in Christ Jesus when He was on this earth, utterly self-effaced and self-emptied; not the mind of Christ when He was in glory. We receive the Spirit of Christ as a gift, but we do not receive His mind, we have to construct that, and this is done in the same way that we construct the natural mind, viz., by the way our disposition reacts when we come in contact with external things. Mind, or soul, is the way the personal spirit expresses itself in the body. We have to lose our own way of thinking and form Jesus Christ's way. "Acquire your soul with patience." It takes time and discipline. When we are regenerated and have the life of the Son of God in us, God engineers our circumstances in order that we may form the mind of Christ.

(a) Of Exaltation

Who, being in the form of God, counted it not a thing to be grasped to be on an equality with God. (rv mg)

Our Lord's exaltation was His equality with the Father. In the Christian life there are stages of experience that are exalted; times when we know what it is to live in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, when we seem to be more on the mount than anywhere else. But we are not made for the mountain, we are made for the valley^{††}; we are made for the actual world, not for the ideal world; but to be so in communion with the ideal that we can work it out in the actual and make it real. There is no life like the life of a missionary for bringing the ideal and the actual together. "Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest," said Jesus; "I will bring the ideal and the actual into one."

(b) Of Subordination

But emptied Himself. (rv)

Our Lord annihilated Himself from His former exaltation and took "the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; . . . He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross" (rv). Our Lord by His own choice emptied Himself of all His former glory; and if we are to enter into fellowship with Him, we must deliberately go through the annihilation, not of glory, but of our right to ourselves in every shape and form. Our Lord's former condition was one of absolute equality with God: our former condition is one of absolute independence of God. "Let him deny himself,"^{††} says Jesus. It is easy to do it in theory, easy to count all things but loss. Paul says he not only counted all things but loss, he "suffered the loss of all things" that he might win Christ. It is a sad thing to only come the length of counting the loss and say, "Oh yes, I see it will cost me my right to myself, it will cost me the world, it will cost me everything; but I do not intend to experience the loss. These things sound all right in the ideal, but they hit a bit too hard in the actual."

(c) Of Sanctification



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“And for their sakes I sanctify Myself.” The idea of sanctification as Our Lord here uses it is the separation of holiness to God’s use and for God’s purpose. Our Lord separated His holy Self to God. This idea of sanctification worked out in a missionary’s life means more than the fact that he is personally identified with his Lord, it means that he deliberately sets apart his sanctified self for God. The experience of sanctification is usually presented as a personal identification with Jesus Christ by which He is made unto us sanctification; the sanctification Our Lord refers to is the sanctification of that sanctification. Beware of the idea of sanctification that makes a man say—“Now I am sanctified I can do what I like.” If he does, he is immoral. Even Christ pleased not Himself. If our experience of sanctification ends in pious sentiment, the reason is that it has never dawned on us that we must deliberately set our sanctified selves apart for God’s use as Jesus did.⁵

John 17:19

And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ^{NKJV}

July 23rd

Sanctification

Of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us ... sanctification. 1 Cor. 1:30.

The Life Side. The mystery of sanctification is that the perfections of Jesus Christ are imparted to me, not gradually, but instantly when by faith I enter into the realization that Jesus Christ is made unto me sanctification. Sanctification does not mean anything less than the holiness of Jesus being made mine manifestly.

The one marvellous secret of a holy life lies not in imitating Jesus, but in letting the perfections of Jesus manifest themselves in my mortal flesh. Sanctification is “Christ in you.” It is *His* wonderful life that is imparted to me in sanctification, and imparted by faith as a sovereign gift of God’s grace. Am I willing for God to make sanctification as real in me as it is in His word?

Sanctification means the impartation of the holy qualities of Jesus Christ. It is His patience, His love, His holiness, His faith, His purity, His godliness, that is manifested in and through every sanctified soul. Sanctification is not drawing from Jesus the power to be holy; it is drawing from Jesus the holiness that was manifested in Him, and He manifests it in me. Sanctification is an impartation, not an imitation. Imitation is on a different line. In Jesus Christ is the perfection of everything, and the mystery of sanctification is that all the perfections of Jesus are at my disposal, and slowly and surely I begin to live a life of ineffable order and sanity and holiness “Kept by the power of God.”⁶

⁵ Chambers, O. (1930). [*So send I you: the secret of the burning heart.*](#) Marshall, Morgan & Scott.

⁶ Chambers, O. (1986). [*My utmost for his highest: Selections for the year.*](#) Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering.



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“Daily to choosing to walk with Christ and do things His way.” Pr. Mike

“It is a mindset. Living for Christ in hostile world.” Pr. Mike

Acts 26:18

to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'

Mt 10

Behold I send you out as sheep amidst wolves