



“TO MAKE BETTER DISCIPLES”

Series: “WHY DOES THE CHURCH EXIST?”, Part 2 of 3
Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: Selected relevant texts

Big Idea: One of our greatest callings, joys, and privileges in life is to partner with God in seeing disciples grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I. GOD’S GOAL FOR EVERY TRUE DISCIPLE IS THAT WE GROW INTO FULL MATURITY, BECOMING LIKE JESUS OUR LORD.

2 Corinthians 3:18, “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever- increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

II. GROWTH INTO MATURITY IS THE INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLE’S RESPONSIBILITY.

James 3:1, “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

Hebrews 13:17, “Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” {NASV}

III. GOD WANTS US TO DEVOTE OURSELVES TO SOME REGULAR PRACTICES THAT HE WILL USE TO GROW AND MATURE US.

1 Timothy 4:7b, “Train yourself to be godly.”

1 Corinthians 9:25-27, “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

A. We grow by internalizing God’s word.

1 Peter 2:2, "Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation." {NASV}

B. We grow by engaging in meaningful relationships with other disciples.

Acts 2:46, "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." Love one another

Be devoted to one another

Live in harmony with one another

Accept one another

Instruct one another

Greet one another

Agree with one another

Be kind one to the other

Bear one another's burdens

Submit to one another

Serve one another

Forgive one another

Admonish one another

Encourage one another

Offer hospitality to one another

Pray for one another

Confess your sins to one another

C. We grow by using our God-given gifts in some form of service.