

A Grace Harvest



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Valley Church
Growing FOR or FROM Grace

WHAT: Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches; to bear fruit, we live FROM God's grace embodied in Jesus. (John. 15:1-5)

WHY: When we are disconnected from Jesus, we can "do nothing" that honors God with our lives. When we are connected to Jesus, we bring glory to God. (John. 15:5-8)

HOW: Trusting in Jesus by living FROM the GRACE of GOD appropriated in prayer, meditation on The Word, praise, worship and fellowship, exercising sensitivity to HIS counsel, guidance and direction in each mode of His grace in action.

Slavery to religion, Galatians 5:1

Freedom from the law, Galatians 3:13

Freedom from sin, Romans 6:14

Liberty in life, 1 Corinthians 10:23

Liberty + love = service to others (John 15:13-17)

Liberty – love = license (slavery to sin; Galatians.5:1-3)

Transformation, Romans 12:2

Romans 8:1-4, Galatians 3:2, Galatians 4:29, Galatians 4:6

The Spirit Enables Us to Fulfill the Law of Love (Galatians 5:13–15)

The Spirit Enables Us to Produce Fruit (Galatians 5:22–23, 25–26)

These first three qualities express the Godward aspect of the Christian life:

LOVE: All of the other fruit is really an outgrowth of love.

JOY: The inward peace and sufficiency that is not affected by outward circumstances.

PEACE: Love and joy together produce peace, "the peace of God, which passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

The next three express the man-ward aspect of the Christian life:

1.**LONG-SUFFERING:** courageous endurance without quitting

2.**GENTLENESS:** kindness

3.**GOODNESS:** love in action

The final three qualities are selfward:

1. **FAITH:** faithfulness, dependability

2. **MEEKNESS:** the right use of power and authority, power under control

3. **TEMPERANCE:** self-control

Galatians 5:25, Hebrews 9:14, Genesis 1:11, Galatians 5:25

WHAT: Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches; to bear fruit, remain in HIS rest (Hebrews 4:11).

WHY: When we are disconnected from Jesus, we can "do nothing" that honors God with our lives. When we are connected to Jesus, we bring glory to God.

HOW: Live FROM the grace of God as revealed in The Word, expressed through Jesus as the Living Word and currently animated in us as we Trust GOD by living FROM grace!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. What is the difference between living FOR and Living FROM grace?

2. What is the difference between the product of living FOR or FROM grace?

3. What are some indicators of living FOR and FROM grace?