



Sermon-based small groups connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, while getting connected, cared for and known. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life and do it with people just like you to support you on your journey.

Message Info: I Don't Have it All Together, But I'm Growing, 2/26/23 - We tend to be our own biggest resister when we hold ourselves up to unrealistic expectations. But growth is not linear; it's messy. Without God's grace, we blame ourselves for the mess and end up missing out. Let's take a deeper look at the key to spiritual growth. (Passages: Romans 7:14-25, Galatians 5:1, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Psalm 119:45, Philippians 3:12, Jeremiah 12:2, 2 Peter 3:18, Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 1:6, 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, Luke 17:5, 1 Peter 2:3, Colossians 2:6)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Is the measuring stick of spiritual growth how well we follow rules? Is it dictated by our mistakes? Is it our church attendance or persona? How much control do we have over our growth? What drives it?

Read Romans 7:14-25. What stands out to you about this passage? Why?

God says we are made in His image, worth so much, and we have a purpose. But do you ever think poorly of yourself? What's your inner dialogue when you look in the mirror? Those lies about ourselves *seem* true when we think we've fallen short of expectations we've taken on. Believing them makes us the greatest limiting factor, the biggest resister, in our own lives. The most freeing response, is admitting that we don't have it all together, but we're learning. Paul confesses this himself, and gave glory to God. He realized that without grace, he was hopeless. How can you begin to view yourself, and others, with grace?

Read Galatians 5:1, 2 Corinthians 3:17, and Psalm 119:45. What common theme is found in these verses? How can you apply this message?

Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12 "I'm not there yet, but I press on to take hold of that which Jesus took hold of me for." The confession gets us halfway. Beyond that, we need to apply grace. Don't gauge your growth on how perfectly you can follow rules, memorize scripture, or smile at church. Appearances and accomplishments mean nothing when they're not backed up by our hearts. The fruit in your life, the overflow of your heart, is what determines if you are really growing.

Group Challenge: Make your own confession. Remind yourself of it's truths and challenges daily to live in God's grace and grow!