



“First Things First”

God’s Growth Plan Series

Pastor Jason

3.24.19

BIG IDEA:

Your POTENTIAL for SPIRITUAL GROWTH is limited or unleashed by your CAPACITY for LOVE.

1) What’s your PRIORITY?

Mark 12:28-34 — “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.”

1 Corinthians 13—

1 John 4:7ff—

- God-given LOVE belongs at the CENTER

2) How’s your PURITY?

- Growth is more about RIGHT RELATIONSHIP than GOOD BEHAVIOR

Psalms 51:10 — “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

- Even SETBACKS can stimulate growth

3) Where’s your PASSION?

Revelation 2:1-5—You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

- MOTIVES matter!
- Are you just GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS?

Jesus didn’t come to ADD TO YOUR LOAD nor LEAVE YOU WHERE YOU ARE, He came to RESCUE YOU!

C3 Group Questions

Accountability: Were you at church on Sunday to grow and learn? Did you read/listen to the Bible and pray this week on a regular basis? If so, share what stood out to you in your time with God.

Ice Breaker: What was most important to you as a kid? Is it still? If not, what is?

Review: What one thing stood out to you (either helpful, insightful or troubling) from the weekend's message?

Group Discussion:

Read Mark 12:28-34. Why could the religious leaders not argue with Jesus's answer to their question. In what ways have you tried to make your faith about things other than love for God and others?

Read 1 Corinthians 13. According to Paul, God's unconditional love is not only the thing that holds marriages together, it's what holds whole communities together. In what ways do we as the C3 community excel in this kind of love? How can we improve, both as groups and as individuals?

Read 1 John 4:7-21...and then, without saying anything, sit with what you've just heard for 30 seconds to a minute. What comes up for you when you read this?

Read Psalm 51:1-17. Sometimes leaders mess up. What did King David do to maintain integrity in leadership? How can we as people of influence follow his example?

Read Revelation 2:1-5. Jesus's words to the Ephesian church are helpful even though they may be hard to hear. If Jesus were to write a letter to C3, what would it say?

How can this group pray for you this week? Who in this group can you pray for this week?

Next Steps: ("Do not merely listen to the word...Do what it says."— James 1:22)

--This week we said your potential for spiritual growth is limited or unleashed by your capacity for love.

- 1) Ask God to show you where love is limited in your life
- 2) Thank God for the places love is unleashed in your life
- 3) Take some time to examine what's really at the center of your life these days
- 4) If your relationship with God is not "pure", take steps to make it right through confession, repentance, and forgiveness
- 5) Reflect on what passion for God might look like in your life. What needs to change: motives or motions?