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**Valley Church**

**October 21 & 24, 2021**  
**Week 9 – Christian Living**

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### **Article 8 – Christian Living**

*We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.*

Colossians 2:5-6

**Legalism** = any attitude or belief that human merit can \_\_\_\_\_, prove or preserve for oneself an acceptable standing before God.

**Motives** – WHY am I doing or not doing something?

**Means** – From what SOURCE am I drawing the strength?

Titus 2:11-13

### **Growing in the New Life of Grace:**

GROWING IN GRACE INVOLVES...

1. A New Perspective as our M \_\_\_\_\_: Grace & Love  
Philippians 3:4-6; Galatians 3:3
2. A New Power as our M \_\_\_\_\_: Living by the Spirit  
Ephesians 3:17-19; 5:18
3. A New Process for our M \_\_\_\_\_: Transformed by Renewal  
Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-17

### **The Big Idea:**

Real spiritual growth is never related to our outward ability to abide by a set of rules. Instead, it's about developing a pursuit of experientially embracing the love of God and living our lives as a responsive outflow of that unconditional security.

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUP AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

### Personal Life:

1. Share about a time when you wanted to be seen as successful or spiritual or impressive – so you acted with a wrong motive.
2. Why are motives so crucial to living a truly fulfilling life in Christ?

### Ponderings:

3. It was emphasized in the weekend message that being continually filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) is directly proportional to the degree that we experientially comprehend the enormity and faithfulness of God's love for us in a personal way (Ephesians 3:17-19). Are you consciously living in this awareness? Explain...
4. In the book "Classic Christianity," author Bob George says, "*Our concept of God's love and grace is an issue that affects every area of our lives, especially our relationships...I have seen all kinds of personal and family problems traced back to a faulty understanding of God's love.*" What relational problems have you faced in life which can be traced to a lack of experiential knowledge of God's love? Explain...
5. Have you ever heard a teaching on God's love and thought to yourself, "*Here we go again...another sermon on God's love! I wish we would go 'deeper'*" – and then came to your senses and realized that there IS no deeper subject in all the universe? If so, why do you think we can so easily get "bored" with such an infinitely amazing subject as God's love?

### Ponderings:

6. You've heard it said at Valley that "Grace is the supreme manifestation of God's love." Why is the grace you show to others such an accurate measuring rod in determining the depth of which you truly understand God's love for you?
7. Close your time in prayerful worship – using 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 as a guide for thanking God for specific qualities of His love toward you...