



Chapter Summary

Growing People

From

John Burke, No Perfect People Allowed, Zondervan, 2005
Chapter 6

Creating a Culture of Growth

'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.' 1 Cor 3:6

What does it really take to grow spiritually? Do life with God.
Growth is personal to each person.

The Journey

Happen in the Context of Relationship: loving, supportive relationships
where kids grow best.

Requires a Personal Development Path: Learning the skills, wisdom and
habits to grow into maturity.

It's a messy journey – but that's how people grow.

Different people exhibiting the same outward behaviour may actually be
heading in opposite directions and need drastically different approaches
to help them move forward in the way of Christ. Some need discipline,
but some just need patience.

The Way of Christ

1 - Ask people to made a Decision and Commitment to grow.

Christian spirituality is relational to the core.

Loving God: We love because He first loved us.

Loving People: How do you grow in your ability to resolve conflict? How do you grow in motivating, encouraging and speaking truth in love to build up others?

Building Character: Growing in the fruits of the Spirit.

As you help people see that love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – which most people long for – are actually what God will produce in us as we yield ourselves to Him, people begin to see The Way of Christ as the way to get what pleasure, possessions, and people could never give them.

Building Christ's Church: Each one of us has been given resources: unique gifts and abilities, finances or possessions and available time to use under God's direction to love and serve Him by uniting together to love and serve one another.

2. Spiritual Running Group

Get people into small groups

People's most basic need in life is relationship. People connected to other people thrive and grow, and those not connected wither and die. It is a medical fact, for example, that from infancy to old age, health depends on the amount of social connection people have.... Virtually every emotional and psychological problem, from addictions to depression has alienation or emotional isolation at its core.

Components

- Loving God – usually a prayer component
- Loving People – a community component
- Building Character – a running partner component – getting honest with each other in the context of grace.
- Building Christ's Church – Outreach and compassionate service component

Rules of Running

- Accept and encourage as often as possible
- Ask questions often and give advice only with permission
- Give reproof only when absolutely necessary
- Give condemnation – never. Protect confidentiality – always.

Running Partner Questions

- What do you think God is trying to do in your life right now?

- If there's one area in loving God, loving people, building character, or building Christ's church you need to focus on right now, what would it be?
- What's one thing you will intentionally do this week to allow God to grow you up in this area?

3. Intentionality

- Develop steps of Intentionality on a personal Development Path to stay connected to God who causes growth.
- We teach people that the epicentre of spiritual growth is giving up playing God and letting God be God in your life.
- Create a resource database to help people locate tools that help them intentionally do something different than what comes naturally.

4. Periodically look back to Assess and Celebrate.

- Yearly assessment to evaluate spiritual growth.
- The main purpose is to celebrate God's work but also help them to pinpoint areas for future growth and development.

Questions for Reflection

- How has your church defined spiritual maturity? How do people decide and commit to that goal?
- Where do people you lead find the relational support to grow?
- How do people you lead find resourced, practices, experiences or disciplines to intentionally put in their lives to better respond to the Spiritual?
- How do you help the people you lead Assess and Celebrate growth?