Helping Grow Our Family

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INTRODUCTION

- By far the New Testament refers to us as a family.
- Each time that term is used, it carries with it the significance that we are family. And that means something.
- This quarter's sub-theme to our grand theme of We Are Family is that we help our family grow.

1 Family Growth Is Essential

- We recognize that growth is essential in a family.
- If there is not this type of growth in a family, then that family will cease to exist, won't it?
- If we don't grow, then this branch of the family tree at least will fail.
- If this family is to exist, then we have to grow.
- Family growth is essential. It's got to happen. It's not optional.

2 Outward Growth: Evangelism

Acts 2:41; Acts 6:7; Acts 8:1–4

- There is what we might call this outward growth. That's evangelism.
- When we talk about numerical growth, we're simply emphasizing that for each one of those numbers, that number represents a soul.
- The word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem.
- Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. That's how the church grew.
- It is everybody's responsibility to help the family grow.
- The outside forces do not determine growth.

3 Upward Growth: Spiritual Growth

Colossians 1:9–10

- There's what we might call upward growth or spiritual growth. It's not enough to just teach the word and baptize new believers.
- Those new believers, as well as us old believers, need to grow.
- That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
- Increasing in the knowledge of God means in you increasing in your relationship, you're knowing God, not just knowing about God.
- I want to challenge every member of this family to make growth an absolute essential part of your Christian life.
- Am I a better husband today than I was the day of my wedding? Am I a better Christian?

4 Together Growth: Grow Closer Together

Ephesians 4:11–16

- We grow inwardly. That means that we have this, what we might call together growth, that we grow closer together. If not, we will fail.
- Speaking the truth in love may grow up in all things into him who is the head, that is Christ.
- Every part does its share causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- We've got to grow together. We have to be closer to one another.
- We've got to love and forbear and forgive and show grace and mercy and love.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Become a part of that family. Repent of your sins, confess your faith, and to be baptized this morning and begin that wonderful life of growth in this family.**

MY NOTES