



A Function of a Functional Christian Life

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Outline

- The Christian Life (Romans 12)
- The Problem: Ever feel like there should be something more?
- Prescriptions:
 - Humility
 - Unity
 - Serving as a team; serving each other
- Application: Small Groups



Living the Christian Life

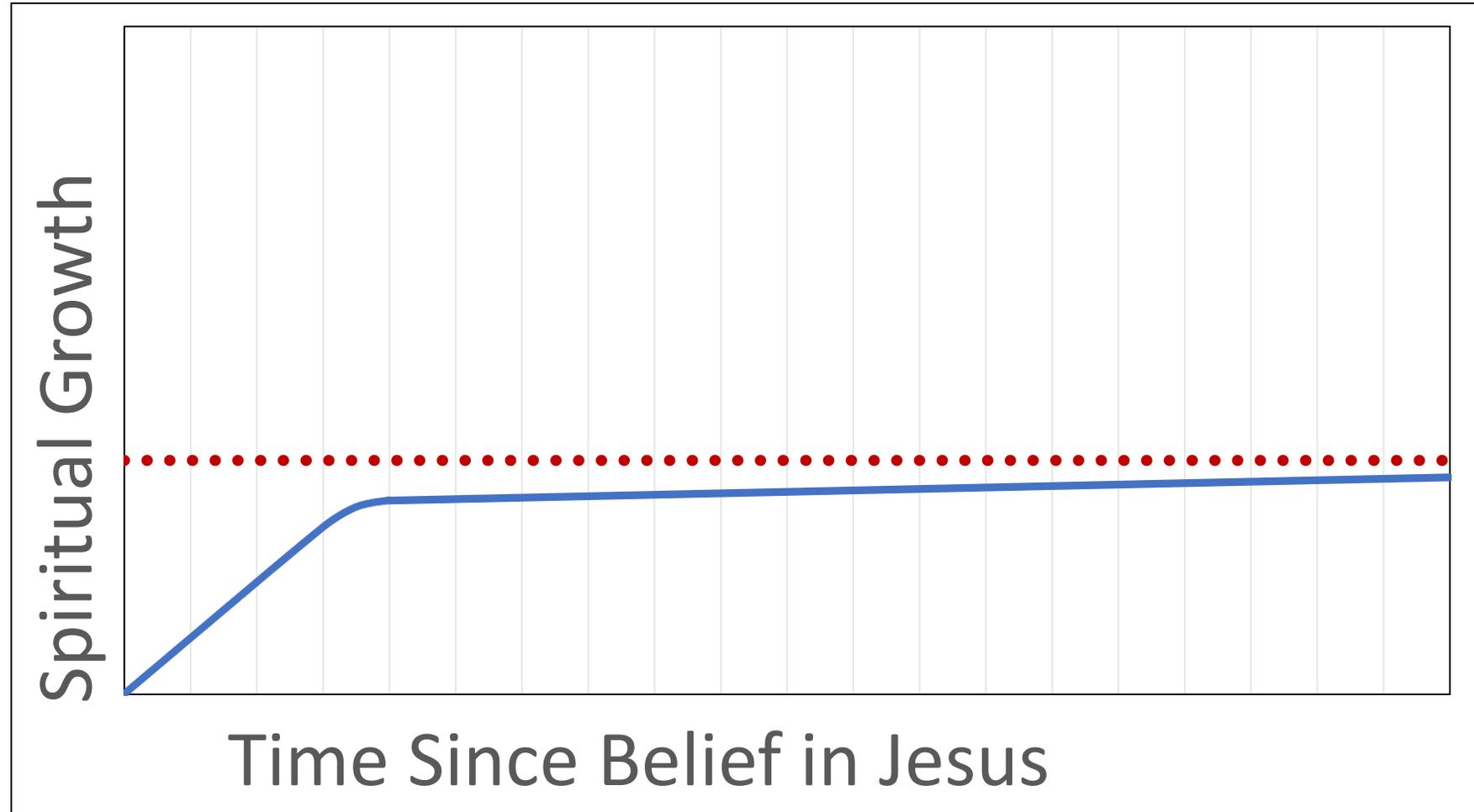
(Romans 12)

¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ² **Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

- What prescription do people offer to live this Christian life?
- What prescription does God offer?



Ever feel like there should be something more?



- This does not represent a healthy relationship with Jesus



A 1st prescription: Humility

(Romans 12)

³ For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly** than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.

- In relation to God
- In relation to others

A natural consequence of Humility:

Obvious Unity in the Body of Jesus



They will know we are Christians by...

(John 13)

³⁴ “I give you a new command: **Love one another**. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**”

- Unity, like Trust, is obvious when there are differences
- People should be surprised by our Unity



A 3rd prescription: Serving one another

(Romans 12)

⁴ Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, ⁵ in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

(Ephesians 4)

¹¹ And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
¹² **equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,**



A 3rd prescription: Serving as a team

(Ephesians 4)

¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness....

¹⁶ From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, **promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.**

Team as metaphor for a body



A 3rd prescription: Serving each other

(John 13)

⁵ Next, he [Jesus] poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ "You will never wash my feet," Peter said. Jesus replied, "**If I don't wash you, you have no part with me.**"

Service is an integral part of membership in the body of Jesus
Service as a team & service to each other



One-on-one service is a command

(John 13)

³⁴ “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**”

One-on-one service

- Serving requires humility
- Being served requires humility



The satisfaction of well used gear

(Ephesians 2)

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.



You were built
for a purpose:
get after it!



Application: Small Groups

(Hebrews 10)

²⁴ And let us **watch out for one another to provoke love and good works,** ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, **but encouraging each other,** and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Where are we fulfilling these Christian Functions?

Would you commit to do life with a group of believers?

