

March 6, 2016 – 6:00 pm

Principles of Christian Growth

Section One: The Nature of Christian Growth – What is it?

Lesson Four: Freedom from the law helps us grow.

Bible Reading: Romans 6:15 – 8:8; Psalm 1

In verse 15 of Romans 6, Paul asks a second question: “Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace?” (6:15; cp. vv. 1-2). Here the answer is the same – “God forbid.” One of the keys to our Christian growth is the fact that we are no longer under the law but under grace (6:14). This truth helps us sin less, not more.

Discussion questions:

1. We learn very quickly in this section of Romans that obedience to God is an important part of Christian growth. Focus on verses 16-19 of the chapter, and try to answer the following: Where does true obedience start? How is true obedience measured? What are the opposites of true obedience? And what is the result of true obedience?
2. Rom. 7:1-6 compares the believer’s new relationship to the law to the relationship of a widow to the law. Paul tells us that a woman whose husband has died is free to marry another man without committing adultery. What makes this the case, the fact that the law no longer applies to the woman, or the fact that while the law still applies to the woman, its application to the woman has changed? In what sense is a believer free from the law of God (8:1)?
3. What role must the law of God have in the life of the believer (Psalm 1; Rom. 8:4, 7-8)?
4. How do we make that happen (Rom. 7:6, 8:1-2, 4-6)?