

Date: _____

Principles of Christian Growth

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

Lesson Two: The goal of Christian growth is Christlikeness.

Bible Reading: Romans 8:28-30; 1 John 3:1-3; Rom. 12:1-2.

Introduction: Good growth is normally focused on a worthy goal, and that goal gives definition or meaning to growth. We define how much growth has happened in terms of the right goal. For example, even though cancer is technically a form of growth, we do not say the child has grown a lot because he is afflicted with cancer. Cancer does not achieve the goal of growth, so cancer is not what we mean by growth. What we mean by Christian growth is given definition by an important goal, which is to become like Jesus Christ.

Discussion questions:

1. God's work of salvation is laid out from its incomprehensible beginning to its glorious end in Rom. 8:28-30. According to verse 28, that work involves a certain purpose or goal. What goal does God have in mind when He saves a sinner according to v. 29?
2. John emphasizes that the believer is a son of God (1 John 3:1-2). In verse 3 he speaks of a believer's hope, which includes an important goal for all the sons of God. Theologians call this goal glorification. What did John call it in verse 2?
3. The Romans 8 passage spoke of conformity to the image of Christ. What opposite do we find of this goal of Christian growth in Rom. 12:2? How is the process of Christian growth described in vv. 1-2?
4. On your list of daily priorities, where does the goal of Christlikeness rank? How can we make it a higher priority than it is right now?