



# The Passion to Become More Like Jesus

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# Overview

- What is Passion?
- The Biblical Basis ... Walk as Jesus Walked
- Three Ways to Become More Like Jesus
- How? ... and ... When?
- Closing Challenge (by God's grace and power) ...



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# What is Passion?

- American Heritage Dictionary defines **passion** as:
  - a powerful emotion or appetite
  - ardent (warm, enthusiastic) or adoring love
  - an abandoned display of emotion



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# Walk as Jesus Walked ...

“But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him:

Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.”

I John 2:5-6



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# Three Ways to Become More Like Jesus

## 1. Jesus was Full of Grace and Truth – He is our model

“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**”  
(John 1:14)

- What is **grace**?

- God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense (GRACE)
- Getting what we don’t deserve because Jesus got what we did deserve
- Grace gave what truth demanded: the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Faith receives what grace gives!



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- What is **truth**?

- In John 17:17, Jesus says “Sanctify (set apart for sacred use or make holy) them by the truth. **Your word is truth.**”
- Truth is more than mere facts. It’s not just something we act upon. It acts upon us. We cannot change the truth, but the truth can change us.
- The guardrails of God’s never-changing and fully dependable truth are there to protect us, not to punish us.



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# Three Ways to Become More Like Jesus

## (1. Full of Grace & Truth) – What Does It Look Like?

- Not one or the other but both grace and truth ...
- Our lives should reflect nothing less than overwhelming gratitude to the Lord for what He has done for us, and it should overflow into and impact all areas of our lives. Thankfulness and graciousness should draw a clear line between us and a Christ-less world
- We often confuse what we want to be true with what is actually true ... we don't define truth as humans ... God is the source of "the" truth not "a" truth, and His Word defines "the" truth (John 14:6) ... Be full of truth by knowing God's Word
- Don't waive at people going down Niagara Falls ... Share the truth of the Gospel with gentleness and respect (I Peter 3:15)



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# Three Ways to Become More Like Jesus

2. Jesus was the **Greatest Servant Leader** ever. We should also be servant leaders.

“For even the Son of Man **did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

“Greater love has no one than this, that he **lay down his life** for his friends.” (John 15:13)

- Servant Leader short definition: “The **servant-leader is servant first**... It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve *first*. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead.” (Robert Greenleaf)



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# Three Ways to Become More Like Jesus

## 2. Jesus was the Greatest Servant Leader ever. We should also be servant leaders.

Servant Leader longer definition: “Someone who *God puts in place* to humbly, through wisdom given by God, *servantly lead* God’s people so the team can *accomplish God’s purposes for God’s glory*. Servant leaders can be *disqualified*, will be *rewarded*, must *seek after God’s heart*, should be *imitated* and *submitted* to, must be *accountable to God*, must *watch over* people, and must *not be led astray*. *Servant leaders lead as they are led by God.*”

References: Deut. 31:2, Joshua 1:6, I Sam. 8:5 , 10:1 & 13:14, II Chron. 1:10, Dan. 12:3, John 10:3, II Cor. 2:14, I Thess. 4:11, Heb. 13:7, 17 , I John 3:7



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# Three Ways to Become More Like Jesus

2. Jesus was the **Greatest Servant Leader** ever. We should also be servant leaders.

- What does it mean in our lives?

We serve God first and others, and lead as we are led by the Lord – it is all about God’s glory and purposes and not our own desires nor our pride – we trust God to work out His plans by making ourselves completely available to Him and His people as He chooses and guides us



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3. Jesus was the perfect example of the Fruit of the Spirit. We should strive to grow in the Fruit of the Spirit by God's grace and power.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

(Galatians 5:22-23)

- Where do you stand with respect to the Fruit of the Spirit demonstrated in your life?

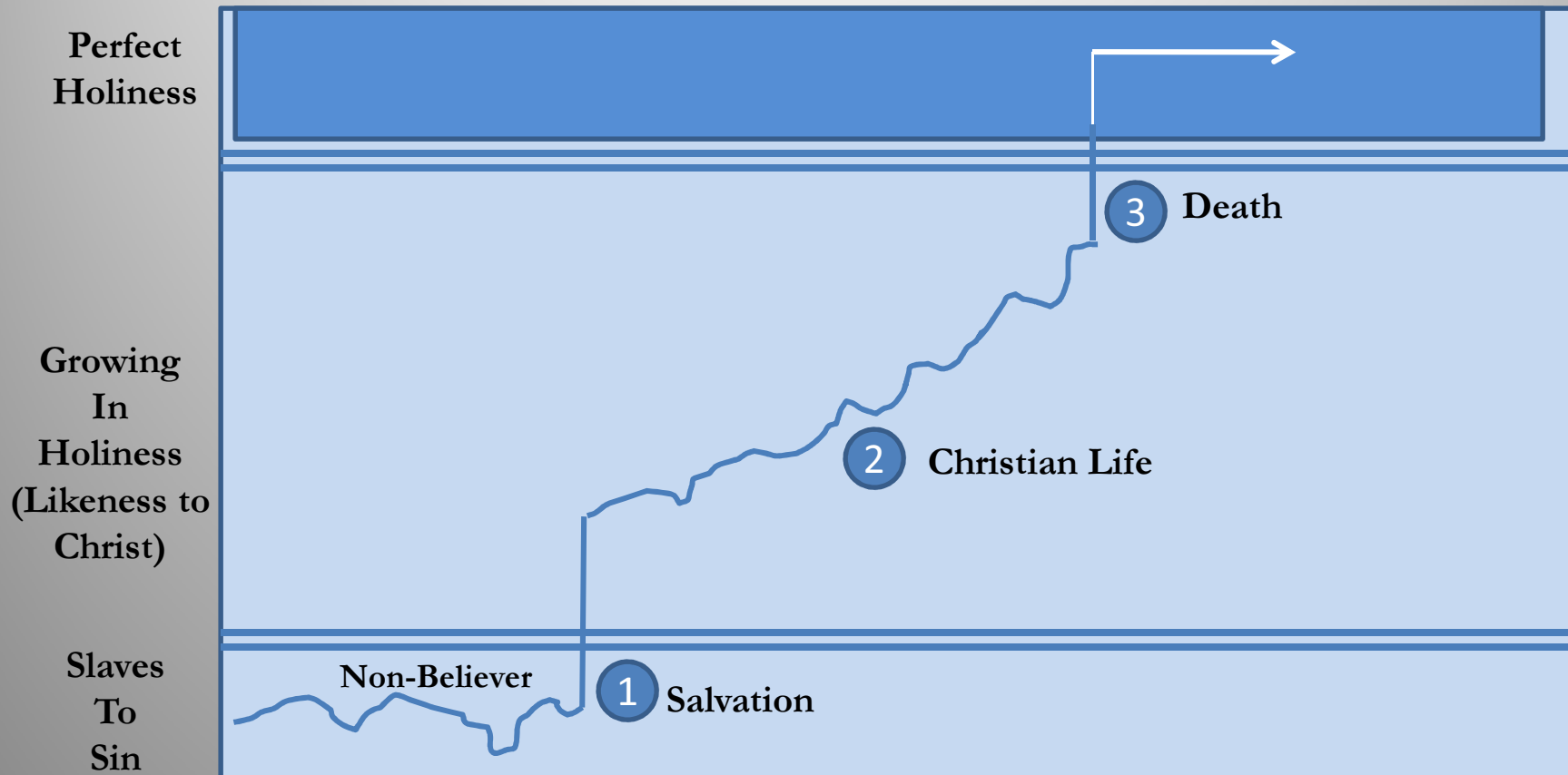


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# How and When Does This Happen in Our Lives?

- How?
  - Sanctification (growth in likeness to Christ) by God's grace and power through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 5:17, 2 Cor. 3:18, see also next process chart)
  - Lifetime of time in the Word – hearing and doing (John 17:17, James 1:22)
  - Spiritual Disciplines (Intimacy, Prayer, Simplicity, Silence and Solitude, Surrender, Humility, Self-Control, Sacrifice, etc)
  - Suffering and Hardship (Philippians 3:10)
- When? Takes a lifetime, and we'll never get there until the Lord takes us home, but He'll continue to work on us day-by-day especially as we humbly cooperate with Him (Philippians 1:6, I John 3:2-3)

# The Process of Sanctification (Growth in Likeness to Christ)



# Closing Challenge

- Break up into small groups
- Some Potential Discussion Question to help process and discuss **where you are** in your passion to become more like Jesus and **where you'd like to be** ...
  - Where am I in my relationship with the Lord Jesus in understanding and experiencing His grace and truth in my life?
  - Where am I in demonstrating both grace and truth in living life for the Lord's glory and purposes? How can I better demonstrate that in my life? What would it look like in the cadet wing? How could God use me in both these ways more consistently?
  - Where am I in being the servant leader that the Lord wants me to be? How does that look today? How could it look now and in the future?
  - Where am I today in demonstrating the Fruits of the Spirit? In what areas of the Fruits of the Spirit may the Lord desire to grow me in?
  - How might I now live differently as a result of this message by God's grace and power?



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