

# A Personal church

The personality of the congregation is just as important as our character. From the way we communicate in the foyer to our expressions in worship, members and nonmembers alike get a sense of who we are by our behavior. When we come together what is the disposition of our assembly? Are we complaining, murmuring, apathetic, empty or mundane? Who would be inspired or edified belonging to a church that demonstrates such characteristics? Yet, this describes many congregations in the Lord's body. We must do better. As a church, our purpose must be clearer; our attitudes, better; our fellowship,

stronger; our relationships, truer; and our progress, greater. Just like the seven churches of Asia in the Book of Revelation, the Lord wants us to improve the identity, commitment and work of our congregation (Revelation 2-3). This, however, requires more than just a dynamic worship service. The church must promote the moral culture of God that cultivates well-being in every member causing them to flourish spiritually. God designed every aspect of the church to be truly impressive. A beautiful congregation patterns herself after the character of Christ. God is true!



## CHURCH OF CHRIST

949 FILLMORE ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
94117

415.931-9333

[www.uptownchurch.com](http://www.uptownchurch.com)

Sunday Bible Class  
10:00am

Sunday Worship  
11:00am, 5:00pm

Wed. Bible Class 6:30pm

## First Principles Part 1

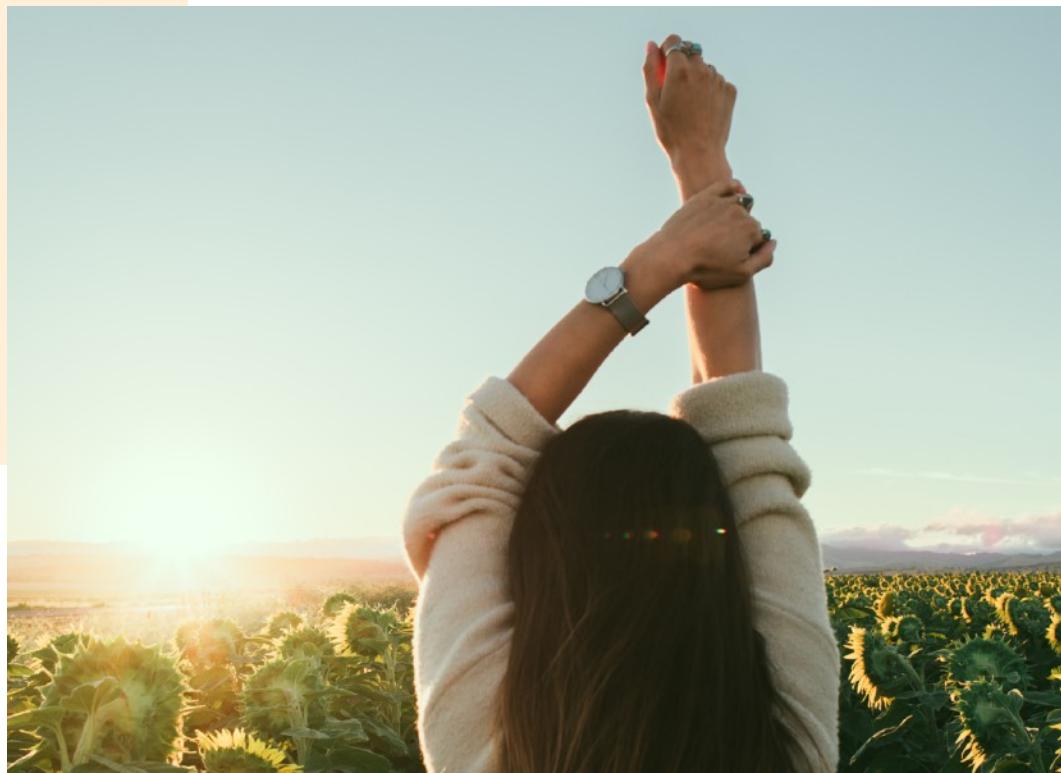


December 16, 2018

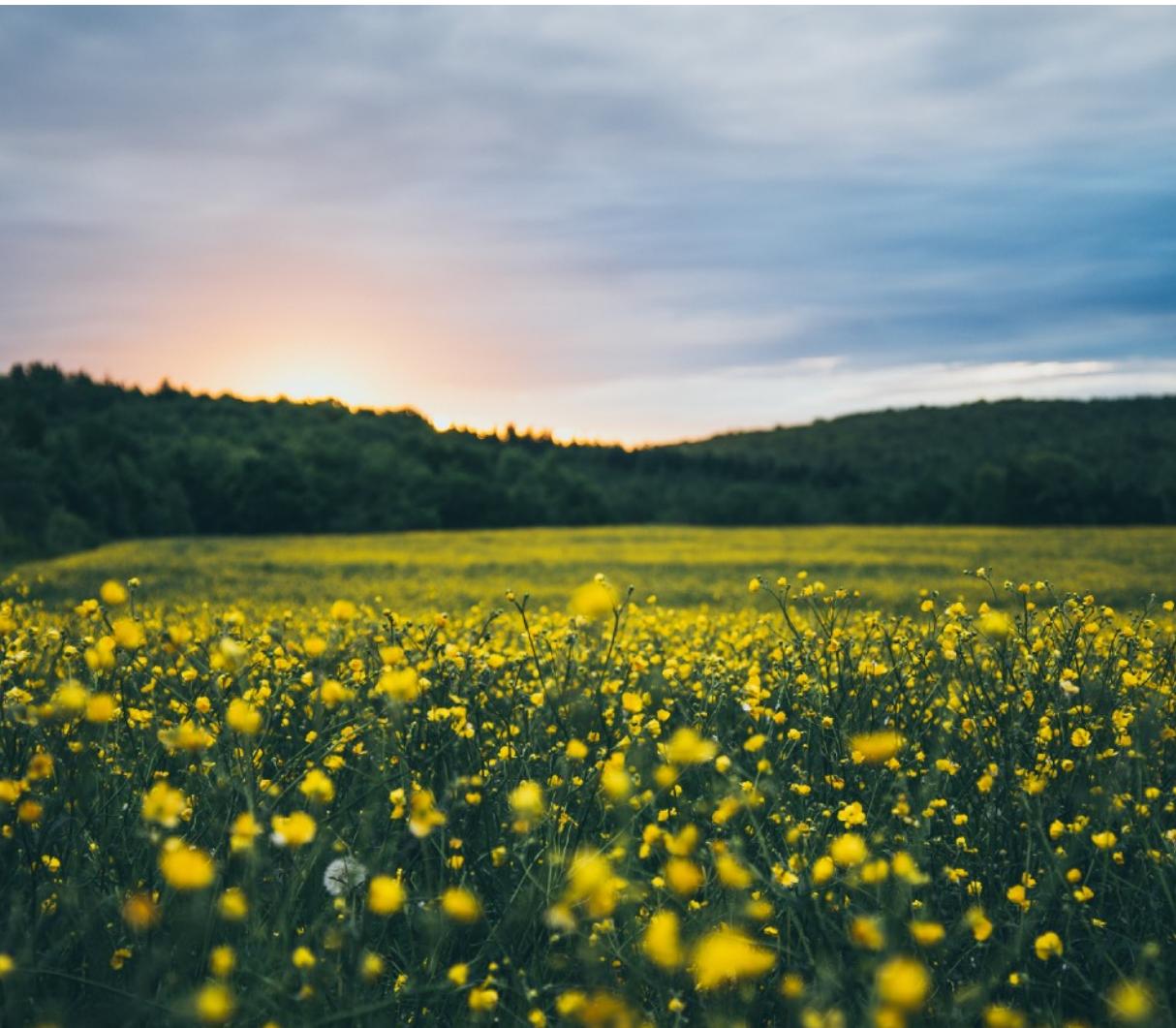
# THE GROWTH OF A CHRISTIAN

The church must improve an individual's ability to correctly weigh the value of their current pleasures with the odds of their future pain (Hebrews 11:24-26).

Seed, soil, nutrients, water, sunlight, air and space: these are the ingredients that work together to make growth possible. Each ingredient contributes something necessary for the process of development. So it is with one's spiritual growth (Luke 8:15; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9). The word of God, hardships and the church are all essential to proper spiritual growth. Within the Christian System, training and morale are necessary for the development of the Christian life (Ephesians 4:11-16). Apart from any one ingredient and growth is hindered or spiritually impossible. As Christians, we must realize that every aspect of life is crucial to our moral development. Hence, we must learn to embrace life along with all its difficulties. God called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). He did this by the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14). However, God did not call us to lie dormant. His call was for us to be involved with Him in His good works.



Daniel 5:16



A good Christian is mindful of the heartache and misfortune suffered by many in the world. Consequently, the servant of the Lord is equipped with good news that brings hope of a better life. While many remain defiant, God's urgent plea is for a life of peace and well-being (Proverbs 4:5; Job 28:28; Proverbs 3:13-26). To a distressed and troubled world, yearning for the hope of comfort and rest, God makes His moral appeal, "Be saved from this perverse generation" (Acts 2:40). Contrary to popular opinion, God is sympathetic toward the disobedient, "Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? says the Lord God, and not that he should turn from his ways and live?" (Ezekiel 18:21-23). God gives directives that regulate our behavior, to deliver mankind from the anxiety of life. While appealing to the conscience, an effective Christian must explain to those hardened in sin that God's wisdom is for our own good (Deuteronomy 6:24-25; 10:12-13; Proverbs 2:10-22). The church must improve an individual's ability to correctly weigh the value of their current pleasures with the odds of their future pain (Hebrews 11:24-26). Christians must help the world realize that their foolishness not only affects their well-being, but also robs others of joy. God is true!

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