

Spiritual Maturity (Eph. 4)

GrowUp!(Spiritual Maturity from Ephesians4)

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Intro:

1. Immaturity is a major problem in the world today. So much more so when it comes to religion.
2. Progress of growth of a christian:
 - a. Birth - John. 3:3-5
 - b. Babe - 1 Peter 2:2
 - c. Child - Eph. 4:14; Heb. 5:12-6:1; 1 Cor. 14:20
 - d. Full Grown - Eph. 4:13
 - i. Perfect-Vines-Used of persons (a) primarily of physical development. -- then with ethical import, full grown, mature (of full age)
 - ii. Eph. 4:13 - ASV - “..to a full grown man”
 - iii. Eph. 4:13 - NASB - “..to a mature man”
3. So what does it mean to “grow up” in Biblical terms?
4. Eph. 4:11-33 provide several marks of maturity

Discussion:

Read v. 11-16

I. Know the Basic Doctrine

- A. Eph.4:13,14
- B. Heb.6:1-3 - the basic doctrine listed
- C. 1 Cor. 14:20 - be not children in understanding

II. Become more and more like Christ

- A. Eph.4:13,15
- B. 1 Cor. 11:1 - imitate Paul, as he imitates Christ

III. Speak the Truth in Love

- A. Eph.4:15
- B. Eph.4:25

IV. Join In with the Body and do your Part

- A. Eph.4:16
- B. Romans 12:3-9 - all have different ability

V. Renew your mind

A. Eph. 4:23

B. Romans 12:2

VI. Continually Correct Sins and Develop Virtues

A. Eph.4:17-33

B. Walk not as the world

i. :17-19

a. In the vanity of their mind (Romans 1:21)

b. Darkened understanding

c. Alienated through ignorance, blindness of heart

d. Past feeling - given to lasciviousness (Seared conscience - 1 Tim. 4:2)

ii. Eph. 2:1-3 - how they used to walk; 1 Pt. 4:1-5

C. Put off the old man (:20-22) (Col. 3:8-9)

D. Put on the new man (:24) (Col. 3:10; 2 Cor. 5:17)

E. Put away lying (:25) (Col. 3:9)

i. Let the lying lips be put to silence - Ps. 31:18

ii. Abhor lying - Ps. 119:163

iii. The Lord hateth a lying tongue - Prov. 6:17

F. Be angry, and sin not (:26-27) - Cf. Ps. 4:4

G. Don't steal, but work to provide for the needy (:28) - Ac. 20:35; 1 Thess. 4:11-12

H. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth... (:29) - Matt. 12:33-37; Eph. 5:4; Col. 4:6

I. Put away all bitterness, wrath..... (:31) - Eph. 5:19-21 - works of the flesh

J. Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving (:32) - Eph. 5:22-26

Conclusion:

1. Let us strive for spiritual maturity and GROW UP!

a. Know the basic doctrine

b. Become more and more like christ

c. Speak the truth in love

d. Join in with the body and do your part

e. Renew your mind

f. Correct sin, develop virtue

1. Walk not as the world
2. Put off the old man
3. Put on the new man
4. Put away lying
5. Be angry, and sin not
6. Don't steal, but work with hands
7. Watch our speech
8. Put away bitterness, wrath, etc.
9. Put on kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness