



[Grow Up in Christ](#)

Wayne Braudrick

[Life Change: We mature in our faith](#)

Prince Harweda...

Ephesians 4

May 10, 2026

Grow up into Him who is the Head

Eph. 4:15-17

Grow up

Hebrew/Aramaic: talmidim. A *talmid* wasn't merely a passive observer; it was someone committed to learning from their rabbi – deeply immersing themselves in their teacher's life, mimicking his actions, and memorizing his teachings for later dissemination.

In every way

Into Him who is the Head – Christ

Promote the growth of the body

Eph. 4:25-32

Stop lying to each other

Deal with anger sinlessly

Be constructive in word and deed

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Prince Harweda



So, of course, he grew to be selfish and peevish, and by the time he was five years old he was so disagreeable that nobody enjoyed him. – Elizabeth Harrison, “Prince Harweda and the Magic Prison” from *In Story Land*





ELIZABETH HARRISON

President

PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION

History will probably record as one of the most far-reaching movements of the Roosevelt administration the call of the Governors of the States to meet in conference concerning ways and means for conserving the natural resources of America. The waterways, the forests, the hidden treasures of mines and all of the God-given riches...revealed themselves as trusts committed to us, for our natural use, to be sure, but also to be passed on to future generations.

If deep and earnest conference is needed as to the conserving of our material resources, how much more important is it that we...consult concerning the protecting and conserving of our human resources...Unless we can preserve and develop the inner resources of the people of our land, of what avail the material resource? It is like jangling brass and tinkling cymbals! [1 Cor. 13]

How many more penitentiaries must we fill; how many more divorce courts must we crowd before we realize that neither education nor social position gives to man or woman that inner power which makes life rich indeed and which adds some value to every other life with which that life comes in contact? – Elizabeth Harrison, “How Shall We Best Conserve Our Nation’s Moral Forces?”

Little Harweda was born a Prince...But his parents, although they were King and Queen, were not very wise, for they never thought of making the young Prince think of anybody but himself and he had never in his life given up any one of his comforts that somebody else might have pleasure. So, of course, he grew to be selfish and peevish, and by the time he was five years old he was so disagreeable that nobody enjoyed him. – Elizabeth Harrison, “Prince Harweda and the Magic Prison” from *In Story Land*



- **The believer in Jesus understands he or she is valued by God.**
- **The Christian then lives by God's values.**
- **The Christian is then positioned to create value.**

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By the power of the Spirit, we will:

- **Hold fast to the Word**
- **Grow up in Christ**
- **Build Community**
- **Equip to Serve**
- **Strengthen families**

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.






15 But speaking the truth in love, let us **grow** in every way into him who is the head—Christ. **16** From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the **growth** of the body for **building** itself **up** in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Ephesians 4 CSB

**19 “Go, therefore [context: because of Jesus’ authority and calling], and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

Matthew 28 CSB

Hebrew/Aramaic: talmidim. A *talmid* wasn't merely a passive observer; it was someone committed to learning from their rabbi – deeply immersing themselves in their teacher's life, mimicking his actions, and memorizing his teachings for later dissemination.

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“Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28 CJB



courtesy TGC

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Matthew 28 CJB

**¹⁶ I pray that he may grant you,
according to the riches of his
glory, to be strengthened with
power in your inner being through
his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may
dwell in your hearts through faith.**

Ephesians 3 CSB

Robert Munger, “My Heart Christ’s Home”

In Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians, we find these words: “That [God] would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.” (Eph 3:16-17). Or, as another has translated, “that Christ may settle down and be at home in your hearts by faith.” Without question, one of the most remarkable Christian doctrines is that Jesus Christ himself through the presence of the Holy Spirit will actually enter a heart, settle down and be at home there. Christ will make the human heart his abode.

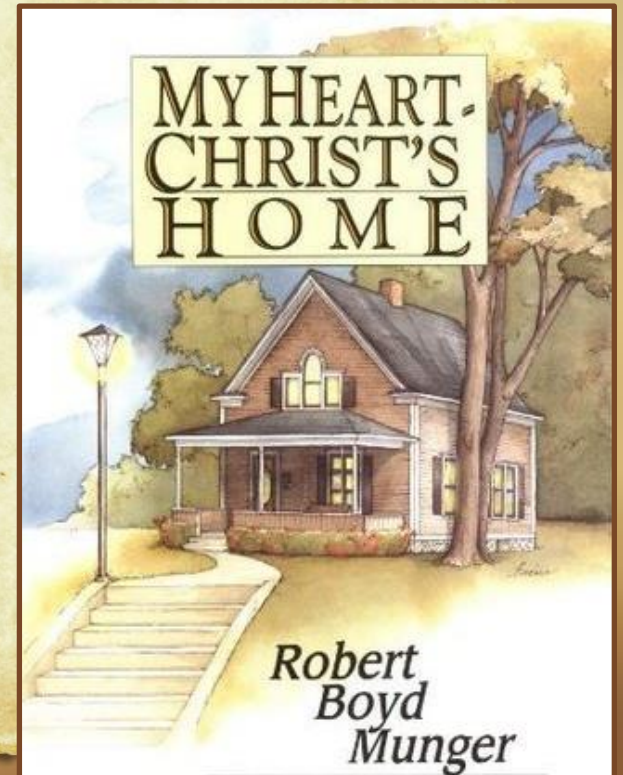
It is difficult for me to think of a higher privilege than to make for Christ a home in my heart, to welcome, to serve, to please, to fellowship with him there. One evening that I shall never forget...I said to him, "Lord, I want this heart of mine to be yours. I want to have you settle down here and be perfectly at home. Everything I have belongs to you. Let me show you around and introduce you to the various features of the home that you may be more comfortable and that we may have fuller fellowship together."



courtesy thewoodwhisperer

He looked over the workbench and what little talents and skills I had. He said, "This is quite well furnished. What are you producing with your life for the Kingdom of God?" He looked at one or two of the little toys that I had thrown together on the bench and he held one up to me. "Are these little toys all that you are producing in your Christian life?" "Well," I said, "Lord, that is the best I can do. I know it isn't much and I really want to do more, but after all, I have no skill or strength."

“Would you like to do better?” he asked. “Certainly!” I replied. “All right. Let me have your hands. Now relax in me and let my Spirit work through you. I know you are unskilled and clumsy and awkward, but the Spirit is the Master-worker and if he controls your hands and your heart he will work through you.” And so...putting his great, strong hands over mine, controlling the tools with his skillful fingers, he began to work through me.



There's much more that I must still learn and I am very far from satisfied with the product that is being turned out, but I do know that whatever has been produced for God has been through his strong hand and through the power of his Spirit in me. Do not become discouraged because you cannot do much for God. Your ability is not the fundamental condition. It is he who is controlling your fingers and upon whom you are relying. Give your talents and gifts to God and he will do things with them that will surprise you.

- from Robert Munger, "My Heart Christ's Home"

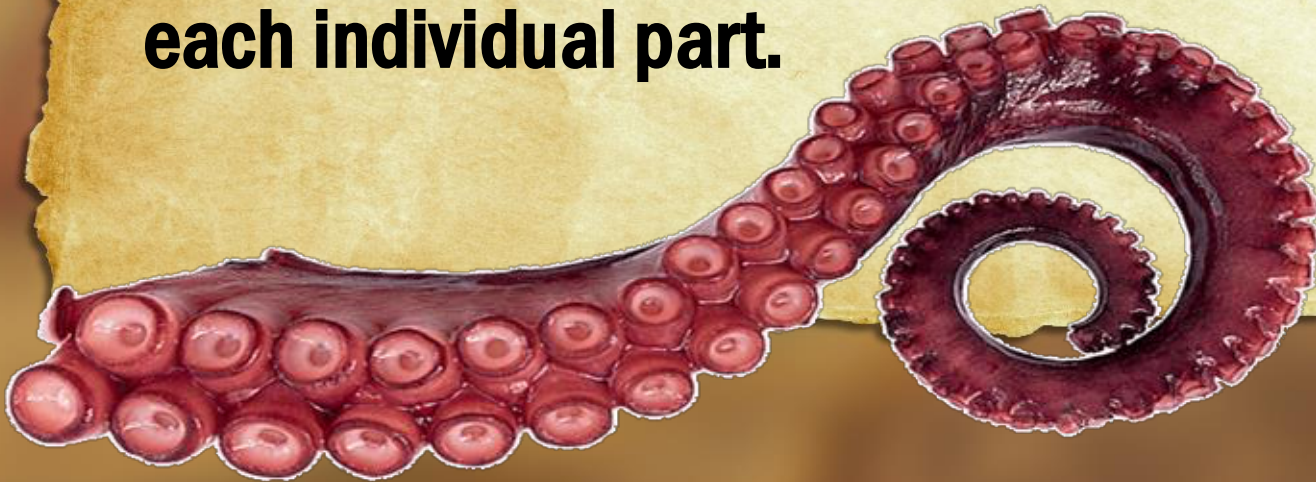
15 But speaking the truth in love, let us grow **in every way** into him who is the head—Christ. **16** From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Ephesians 4 CSB

It's so easy to keep the "Hall Closet" locked and the Title Deed in our name. But my experience is like Munger's: until we let Christ in the closet, our besetting sins will always beset us and hold us back. And it is only when we are willing to believe that He owns us, loves us, and wants only the best for us that we will obey Him out of love and gratitude. – David Wade

Greek: Kephale κεφαλή = a euphemistic way to refer to the controlling, life-giving aspect of an organism

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Ephesians 4 CSB



courtesy sbbonfire



courtesy edutopia

**“I realized that I didn’t know everything
and that you had stuff I needed.”**



17 Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord: You should no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thoughts.

Ephesians 4 CSB

They are stuck in a closed chamber whose echo fools them into thinking it's large and open-minded.

**¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly.
As each part does its own special work,
it helps the other parts grow,
so that the whole body is healthy
and growing and full of love.**

Ephesians 4 NLT

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, *speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, [Zech 8]* because we are members of one another.

²⁶ *Be angry and do not sin. [Psalm 4]* Don't let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and don't give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4 CSB

15 But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ.

25 Therefore, putting away lying, *speaking the truth, each one to his neighbor, [Zech 8]* because we are members of one another.

Ephesians 4 CSB



courtesy Linked In



Situation: a Christian uses gossip, giving, or grumpiness to convince themselves of the lie that their sin is acceptable and the overseer better play along or face charges of ‘spiritual abuse.’

The avuncular (overly tolerant) option: Give in and let the spiritual toddler redefine sin. [Note: this is framed as “love” and usually involves comparison games about how everyone else’s sins are worse.]

The nuclear (scorched earth) option: Go on the attack, using public shame or shunning to preemptively force someone out of the body. [This, ironically, is true spiritual abuse, and usually involves rationalizations about some imaginary ‘greater good.’]

[What WB calls the avuncular option] tells people to carry their wrong desires as a cross rather than kill those desires as a sin. [Regarding the nuclear option]...The church is [saying with] cruelty, that the grace of God is not sufficient for that person's fight.

– Michael Clary, “Sam Allberry’s Theology Led to This”

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Ephesians 4 CSB

love member

mortify sin

- **Avuncular option: lie about sin.**
- **Nuclear option: lie about being members of one another.**
- **Cross-refer option: tell truth about sin in love for the saint.**

²⁶ *Be angry and do not sin. [Psalm 4]* Don't let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and don't give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4 CSB



“Oh, so you found lots of other people who are also sinning in their anger and think that makes it OK for you to do so. Will you next jump off a bridge into traffic because they all do?”

God the Father
Artus Quellinus the Younger
1685



26 Be angry and do not sin. [Psalm 4] Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4 CSB

***4 Be angry and do not sin;
reflect in your heart while on your bed and be silent.***

Selah

Psalm 4 CSB

- **“And another thing...”**
- **Keeping a record of supposed wrongs. [This has become even easier with cell phones.]**
- **“I shouldn’t say this, but...”**
- **Fixating on feelings.**
- **Using others as an excuse for sinful anger. “I am doing this for my kids...”**

²⁶ *Be angry and do not sin. [Psalm 4]* Don't let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and don't give the devil an opportunity.

³² And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

Ephesians 4 CSB

28 Let the thief no longer steal. Instead, he is to do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. 29 No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. 30 And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice.

Ephesians 4 CSB

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Ephesians 4 CSB

This represents a seismic shift. By nature, humans are a mix of:

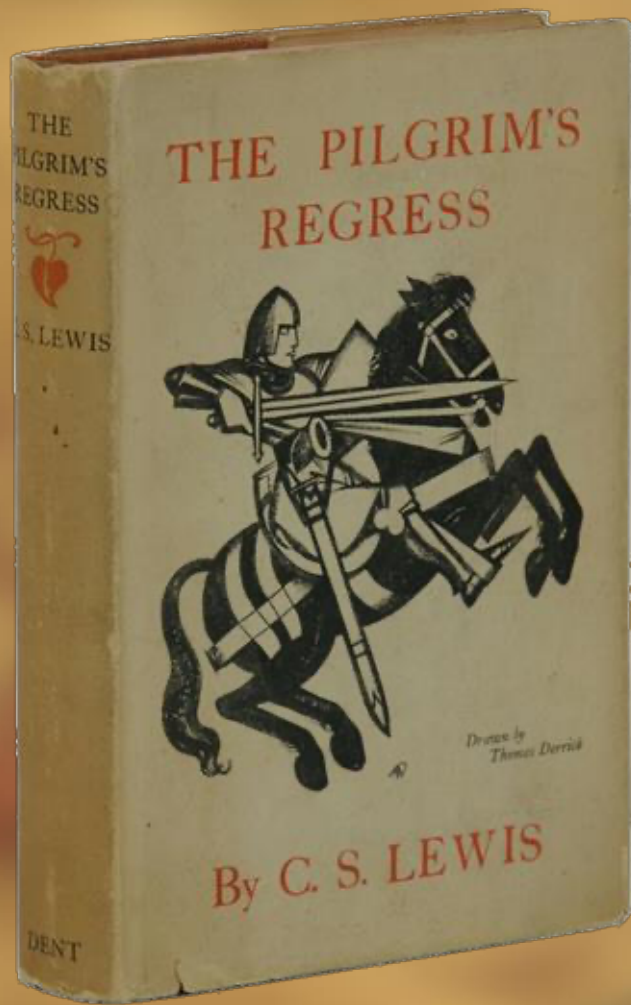
- constructive tendencies made in the image of God**
- destructive tendencies fed by a sinful flesh, Satan, and a broken world.**

**⁷ Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons.
For what son is there that a father does not discipline?
[ref. Proverbs 3:11-12; see also James 1:1-4; Romans 5:1-5;
1Peter 1:3-7]**

Hebrews 12 CSB



courtesy AktuellesU



The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own,' or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life – the life God is sending one day by day.

– C.S. Lewis, *The Pilgrim's Regress*

"You must need some water to drink," continued he as he filled its drinking cup. "This is all I have to give you."

Just then he heard a harsh, grating sound, as of rusty bolts sliding with difficulty out of their sockets, and then faint rays of light not wider than a hair began to shine between the heavy plate mirrors. Prince Harweda was filled with joy. "Perhaps, perhaps," said he softly, "I may yet see the light again. Ah, how beautiful the outside world would look to me now!"



Great indeed was the rejoicing in the palace when Prince Harweda was returned to them a sweet, loving boy, kind and thoughtful to all about him. Many a struggle he had with himself and many a conquest over the old habit of selfishness, but as time passed, he grew to be a great and wise King, loving and tenderly caring for all his people and loved by them in return. – Elizabeth Harrison, “Prince Harweda and the Magic Prison” from *In Story Land*

³⁰ And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice.

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