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Ephesians 4:11-16
Why Grow Up?
5/9/24

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you understand the temptation to become a false teacher?
 2. Have you seen the blessing of a mature person in your life?
 3. Have you ever been aware of your own need to grow? How?
 4. How can you focus on your own spiritual growth?
 5. What is a takeaway for you personally from this study?
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Teaching Notes:

A couple weeks ago we discovered God has called us to...

“...walk in a way that is worthy of our identity in Christ”.

Our activity should match our identity...

...And one imp. way our activity matches our identity is...

...with spiritual maturity.

Message Title: Why Grow Up?

Big Idea:

We are all called to spiritual maturity because we all need the strength of mature people to grow.

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

1. We all need to grow in maturity into Christ.

Immature people do not take care of others...

...they need to be taken care of.

The journey of Christian maturity is a journey going from...

...a focus on me to a focus on Christ and others.

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

2. Maturity brings strength and stability.

If a person is using trickery, being cunningly crafty...

...or plotting w/deception...

...this is PURPOSEFUL.

3. False teachers want something.

- Balaam 2 Peter 2 for money.
- Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8 for power.
- Diotrefes in 3 John 1 for pride.

False doctrine: The Christian life is all about you.

When we position salvation or service or end times...

...as things for us they become idols we worship...

...and activities we perform...

...BUT they have nothing really to do with...

...Jesus, His will, His glory, or the fruit of His Spirit.

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—
Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint
supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes
growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

4. Mature disciples do their part to exalt Christ, obey God, and love people.

Growth is not just about knowledge; it is about action & motives.

This week consider an area where you can grow and bring a benefit or be a blessing to the body of Christ.