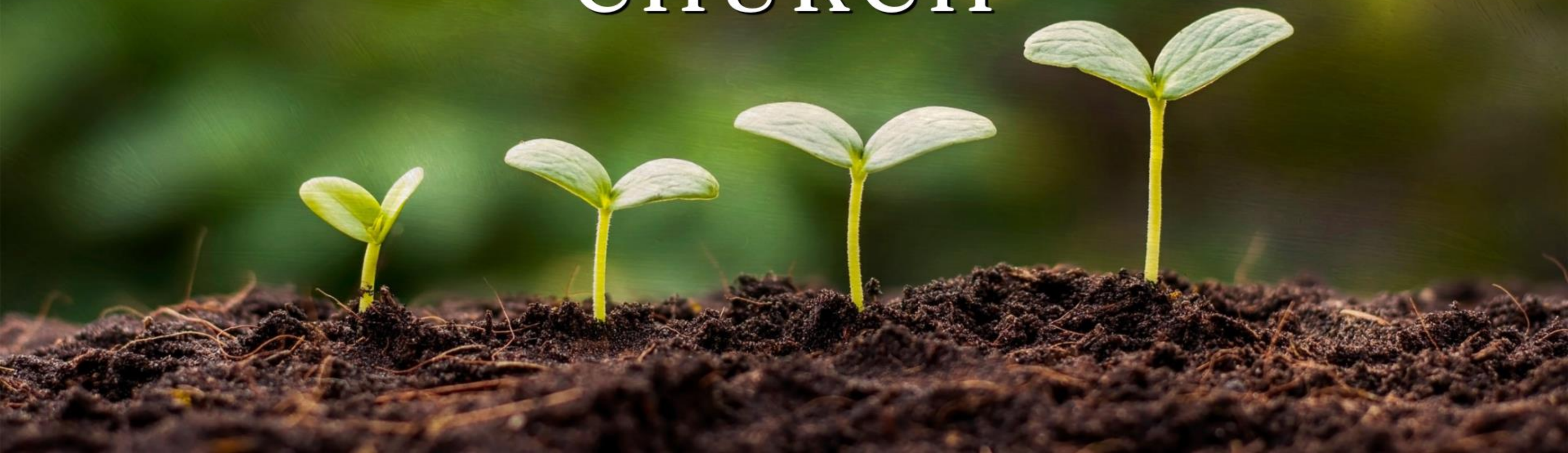


THE
MATURING
CHURCH



The Maturing Church...

Grows

Eph. 4:13-16; Phil. 3:12-16

(1) What is a church?

- A Building or a People?

- Act 17:24 and Deut. 4:10
- Ex. 19:5-6 and 1 Pe. 2:9-10

“*Ekklesia*” (gk)

70x/OT; 114x/NT

- A People or Individuals?

- Rom. 12:3-5 “One body, many parts...”
- “One another” over 90x!

(2) What is Growth?

- **Individuals growing in intimacy with Jesus!**
 - Eph. 4:13-16
 - “growing up in every way in Him who is the Head”
- **Your growth is Not just about You!**
 - My/Your growth impacts the Body
 - Neglecting our growth impacts the Body, too...

(3) How does Growth happen?

- **Is Growth OUR effort or GOD'S effort in us?**
 - Phil. 3:12-16 BOTH His intention AND our response
- **Growth is neither Performative NOR Passive**
 - “I do... therefore God...” NO!! Eph. 2:1-10
 - “I’ll just wait...” NO!!! 1 Jo. 1:5-10, John 15:1-5, Matt. 3:7-9

Performative vs Passive Growth

Performative Growth is a blight on the contemporary Church. It leads either to Pride and Self-Righteousness, or Despair

Passive Growth is uncommitted and culturally vulnerable. It leads to watered-down, ineffective faith and falling away.

This is NOT “*do better... try harder!*”. It is a steadily held pursuit of God’s way, trusting it is ALWAYS better than mine!

(4) What derails Growth?

- I. Don't. Like. Conviction. Or. Correction.
 - As I GROW, I become more aware of my sin!
 - Which sometimes "feels" discouraging
- Conviction is something to be welcomed!
 - God is saying, *"This is an area I want to work on w/you"*
 - 1 Co. 3:1-2; John 17:20-23

Where do we go from here?

- How do I know in what areas I am to grow?
 - Ask the Lord. Listen. Ask other people.
- Expect to feel uncomfortable.
 - Growth does not occur apart from discomfort
- You will not grow deeply in Christ in isolation.
 - Growth in Christ requires Community.

Prayer is always our First stop..!

- 1. In what areas do you know the Lord is calling you to cooperate with Him in order to produce growth in your walk with Christ?
- 2. What resources has the Lord provided to help you engage those growth opportunities?
- 3. In what ways are you excited to see how your growth affects Cornerstone?