

Grow Up

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Why is it hard to grow up?

Q: What are some of the "key" components to growing up?

Table Time....

READ: Ephesians 4:11-15 "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ"

Q: According to verse 12, what is the role of the "Apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers"?

Q: According to verses 13-15, what does "growing up" look like?

Q: What is the "fullness of Christ" look like?

READ: Philipians 2:1-11 "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Q: How does this section, show us what the "fullness of Christ" looks like?

Q: What characteristics did Jesus have that WE must aspire to?

Q: What does "growing up into the fullness of Christ" have to do with "reading the scriptures"?

Q: What role does humility play in going deeper in the Word of God?

Q: What role does obedience play in "growing up"?

Q: What might be some benefits of "growing up" spiritually?

Q: Why is it "hard" to grow up spiritually?

Q: How might you begin to grow in ways that help you overcome the obstacles?

Big Group Debrief....

READ: 1 Peter 2:1-3 "So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. "

Q: Why do "malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander" impede spiritual growth?

Q: How is the Word of God, like "spiritual milk"?

READ: Hebrews 5:12 - 14 "About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."

Q: According to verse 12, what does "milk" consist of? How does this help us understand the importance of "basic principles of the oracles of God"?

Q: How do we learn and apply those basics? (Hint, verse 14)