**IT’S TIME TO GROW UP IN JESUS – PART II**

**Ephesians 4:15**

[**15**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-4-15/) **But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*Last week we noticed in Ephesians 4 that the Goal is to Grow Up and be Christians and the Goal isn’t to Goof Up and be Childish!**

 **1. We saw we’re to Grow Up and Be Inviting**

 **a. Growing up means you Invite Jesus into your Heart.**

 **b. Growing up means you Invite Jesus into your Home.**

 **c. Growing up means you Invite Jesus into your Hereafter.**

 **2. We saw we’re to Grow Up and Be Involved**

 **a. Grown up Christians are involved in the Word.**

 **b. Grown up Christians are involved in the Worship.**

 **c. Grown up Christians are involved in the Witnessing.**

**\*\*This week look with me at Hebrews 5:13-14.**

[**13**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-5-13/) **For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.**

[**14**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-5-14/) **But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

**Illustration: Here is what a seasoned pastor said to his congregation. The carnal believer is still on milk spiritually. Milk is fine for babies, but as we mature, we are supposed to move beyond the milk of the Word into the meatier places of the Word. Here is the very reason some people are not growing in the Lord. They do not want to go any deeper in the things of the Lord than they already are! You try to lead them deeper in the book and they get spiritual indigestion. They do not want to go.**

**They want to come to church, put their mind in neutral and never have to think! In other words, as long as you stay simple and feed the "*gospel lite*" (L-I-T-E), they are happy. You know, tell a few stories. Tell about the time you visited so and so and what happened in this place or the other. Talk about your life, talk about the Lord, talk about the church, but keep it lite! But, when you begin to preach the deeper truths of the Word that call for commitment and a change of life, they get an upset stomach and they will spit up all over you! However, a congregation full of carnal believers will never get out of the nursery until they begin to dig their spiritual teeth into the deeper truths of the Word of God!**

**\*\*I say, “Amen!” to that!**

**\*\*It’s Time to Grow Up in Jesus so let me give you two more ways you can grow up in Jesus!**

**II. GROW UP AND BE INVOLVED**

**\*\*Childish people don’t get involved in the Spiritual things of the Church. Childish people act like children and only want to be involved in church Fun or the church Fusses.**

1. **Grown Up Christians Get Involved in the Word**

**Psalms 119:105-106** [**105**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-119-105/)**NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.** [**106**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-119-106/) **I have sworn, and I will perform *it*, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.**

**\*\*NUN – means saying thy word, speaking thy word, all thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**

**1. Grown up Christians make His word their Path.**

**2. Grown up Christians make His Word their Performance.**

1. **Grown Up Christians Get Involved in the Worship**

**Psalms 150:2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.**

**Illustration: What is the purpose of worship? Why do we worship? Childish Christians believe that worship is for them and all about them to make them look and feel better. So they offer a false worship that comes from their lips and sometimes from their hips, and they do not offer a true worship from their hearts. Their false worship feeds their flesh and makes them feel good about themselves and causes them to boast about their worship. In reality it is childish foolishness!**

**\*\*Grown Up Christians worship God from the heart for two reasons . . .**

 **1. We Worship God for His Performance**

**Psalms 150:2a Praise him for his mighty acts:**

 **2. We Worship God for His Perfection**

**Psalms 150:2b praise him according to his excellent greatness.**

**\*\*Whether things are good or things are bad, grown up Christians still get involved in worshiping the Lord!**

 **C. Grown Up Christians Get Involved in the Witnessing**

**\*\*Grown up Christians put away childish communication and gossip. Instead, all they want to talk about . . .**

**1. Is the Messiah 2. Is the Message 3. Is the Ministry**

 **4. Is the Mission**

**\*\*Don’t you think it’s time to grow up in Jesus?**

**III. GROW UP AND BE INCREASING**

**John 3:30 He must increase, but I *must* decrease.**

**\*\*Grown up Christians wants their Self and their Stuff to decrease so that the Savior and the Spirit increases!**

**\*\*When the Savior and the Spirit increases, it will cause you to grow up and allow some things increase in your life.**

1. **Grown Up Christians Increase in Faith**

**\*\*You must have faith in order to ever get saved, but your faith must grow from that point on in order to grow up in Jesus. Without faith it is impossible to please God!**

 **1. When faith increases, your Certainty increases.**

**\*\*You live by trusting.**

 **2. When faith increases, your Convictions increases.**

**\*\*You live by theology.**

 **B. Grown Up Christians Increase in Focus**

**\*\*We focus on the Savior, the Scripture, the Spiritual Songs, and the Sermon.**

**\*\*Whatever you focus on is a testimony that says that you are either Childish or a Christian.**

 **C. Grown Up Christians Increase in Fidelity**

**\*\*Fidelity means you are faithful in a relationship.**

 **1. Are you faithfully Devoted in your relationship with Christ?**

 **2. Are you faithfully Dependable in your relationship with Christ?**

 **D. Grown Up Christians Increase in Financing**

 **1. They gladly give to the Church unlike a selfish child.**

 **2. They gladly give to the Cause unlike a selfish child.**

 **E. Grown Up Christians Increase in Fellowship**

**\*\*They fellowship with the Savior, the Scripture, and the Saved.**

 **F. Grown Up Christians Increase in Fruits**

**Galatians 5:22-23 says the fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance.**

**\*\*To increase in the Fruit, there are two actions you must do.**

 **1. Act of Slaughter**

**Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

 **2. Act of Stepping**

**Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

**\*\*Don’t you think it’s time to grow up in Jesus?**

**IV. GROW UP AND BE INVESTING**

 **A. We Must Invest Our Love**

 **1. Invest in loving God, and you’ll get God in return!**

 **2. Invest in loving Grace, and you’ll get Grace in return!**

 **B. We Must Invest Our Life**

 **1. Invest our lives into Connecting with God**

 **2. Invest our lives into Communicating with God**

 **3. Invest our lives into Corresponding with God**

 **C. We Must Invest Our Labor**

**Hebrews 6:10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his**

**name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.**

 **1. Invest Your Labor of Love into a Certain Being**

 **2. Invest Your Labor of Love into a Church Body**

**Illustration: There was a man whose name was Bob that was a faithful member to his church. Bob was about a 75 year old man, but he was the reason the church saw a lot of growth.**

 **One day many of the members along with the pastor got to noticing that just about everyone of the new visitors that came to church would ask for Bob as soon as they came through the doors. The other thing that was strange to them would be the age of these new visitors who came in and asked for Bob. They were the Millennial Generation (teenagers up through their 20s) that were coming in to the church and asking for Bob. Not only that, these young people were coming back Sunday after Sunday, and they always spoke to Bob at some point.**

 **This led the pastor and some of the leaders to ask Bob what was it he was doing to get these young people to church.**

 **He told them this. I simply go where they go, and I get involved in their lives and invest in them. I go to their ballgames, their graduations, and their award days. I show them I care, and then I ask them to come to church.**

**\*\*Bob had grown in the labor of love so much that he learned the importance of investing in Certain Beings and investing in the Church Body.**

**\*\*I wonder if anyone from our congregation would be interested in growing in the labor of love enough to invest in Certain Beings and the Church Body?**

**Illustration: Here is another example. In one church, there were people from different age groups (about 10 of them) who had grown in the Lord that the pastor assigned to a certain task. The task was when someone visited their church, they would all become a judge of character and size the visitor up. The one that felt they were the closest in age or looked like they had something in common with them would say, “That one is mine.”**

**That one person would go to that visitor and begin a conversation with them. That church member would eventually ask if the visitor would come sit with them or if they would mind if they could sit with that visitor.**

**The visitors felt loved and at home because someone had grown in the Lord enough to make their mission a labor of love and invest in that one person. And one person at a time and little by little, that church grew because there were some church members who decided it was time to grow up in Jesus!**

**\*\*Don’t you think it’s time to grow up in Jesus?**

**CLOSE**

**\*\*Too many Christian people have not grown up.**

**\*\*Some call themselves Christians, but the truth is they still eating on the Murk of the World. They’re not even saved!**

**\*\*Some are saved, but they only sip on the Milk of the Word, and they are undernourished and un-nourished because they never eat on the Meat of the Word. \*\*Therefore, they do not grow. Therefore, the church doesn’t grow.**

**\*\*Something I’ve found out. When things don’t grow, they die!**

**1. When are we going to grow up and start getting Involved?**

 **A. When will we get involved and Grow in the Word?**

 **B. When will we get involved and Grow in the Worship?**

 **C. When will we get involved and Grow in the Witnessing?**

**2. When are we going to grow up and start Increasing?**

**\*\*Are we really going to sit here the rest of our lives and die and let our church die because we refused to grow?**

**a. Will you ever decide to grow and increase in your Faith?**

**b. Will you ever decide to grow and increase in your Focus?**

**c. Will you ever decide to grow and increase in your Fidelity?**

**d. Will you ever decide to grow and increase in your Financing?**

**e. Will you ever decide to grow and increase in your Fellowship?**

**f. Will you ever decide to grow and increase in your Fruits?**

**3. When are we going to grow up and start Investing**

**\*\*Are we going to sit here and die and let the church die because . . .**

 **a. We decided not to invest our love in God and Grace?**

 **b. We decided not to invest our lives in connecting, communicating, and corresponding with the Lord?**

 **c. We decided not to invest our labor in certain beings or into the church body?**

**\*\*I love you folks, and I’ll love you and preach to you and be your friend no matter what you decided. However, I’ve got to tell you this.**

**a. Every time you decide to miss Sunday School or a Worship Service or a Sunday Night service, you are really saying, “I don’t care about growing in the Lord, and I don’t care if the church grows or not . . . just let it die.”**

**b. Every time you decide that your vacations and your weekend trips are more important than going to church before you take off, you’re saying, “Who cares if the church grows? Just let it die.”**

**c. Every time a family reunion or family get together is planned on a Sunday and you do not say, “I can’t come because I’ve got to be at my church,” then you just decided it was okay for your church to die!**

**d. Every time you miss revival nights, special singings, fellowship meals, homecomings, camp meetings, VBS, Christmas plays, special preachers, church bus rides, you are saying, “Y’all just go ahead. It’s alright with me if the church doesn’t grow and if the church dies!”**

**\*\*Like I said, I love you either way, and I want us to be friends after this message. However, if you do not decide to grow, the church won’t grow. If you are too busy and your life is too full that you can’t be faithful to grow, then I pray to the Lord that He take stuff out of your life so that you will come running to the church faithfully and grow. It would be for your benefit. So will you grow or die?**