

## **Growing Up In The Lord** **Eph 4:11-16, 22-24**

What is your goal in being a Christian?

--To get to heaven?

--To be more like Jesus?

- Babies - We all start as babies when we are born again.
  - Babies are good, but babies require lots of care.
    - They need milk
    - Cannot feed themselves
    - Make messes and need someone to clean up after them
  - Baby Christians are like that I Cor 3:1-4
    - Cannot take solid food, i.e. correction
    - Cannot feed themselves: hear God on their own
    - Make messes: jealousy, strife; division
  - Babies must grow up-Hannah Sweetlove
    - Babies → children → adults
    - We are no longer to be children: Eph 4:14
    - We are to grow in respect to salvation: I Pet 2:2
    - God has set provision for growing
      - Eph 4:11-apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers
      - So we become mature: Matt 5:48
  - Children are: Eph 4:14
    - Unstable
    - Easily deceived
    - False opinion of ourselves
  - Adults
    - Speak truth in love: Eph 4:15
    - Fitted and joined together: Eph 4:16; I Pet 2:5 (living stones)
    - Proper working of each part; each one contributes: Eph 4:16
- How do we grow up? Eph 4:22-24
  - Lay aside the old self-deeds of the flesh
    - Things that others have done to us in our past
      - People have hurt us
      - Disappointments, bitterness, forgiveness
      - I Pet 2:1-lay aside all malice
      - Col 3:8-anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech
    - Things we have done in the past
      - Futility and frustrations; mistakes and failures
      - Pride and arrogance
      - Lying and cheating: Eph 4:25
      - Lay aside deeds of darkness: Rom 13:12

- Eph 4:28-Let him who steals steal no more.
- Be renewed in the spirit of your mind
  - Bondages of the past:
    - Matt 7:1-2--judgements of others and self
    - Superstitions; traditions
  - Learn to know Jesus: Matt 11:29
    - Take my yoke upon you and learn of me
    - Discipleship
  - The mind of Jesus: Phil 2:5
    - Humility
    - Care Phil 2:4
    - Hope Phil 3:13: forgetting what lies behind, reach forward towards the goal
- Put on the new self: Eph 4:24--Change clothes; II Cor 5:17 old things gone; all things new
  - Become spiritual men in the likeness of God
    - Put on the Lord Jesus: Rom 13:14
    - Put on the character of Jesus: Gal 5:22-24
    - Submit to those who have authority: Heb 13:17
  - Walk in righteousness
    - Right relationship with God
      - Armor of light: Rom 13:12
      - Breastplate of righteousness: Eph 6:14
    - Right relationship with people: Col 3:12-17
      - Put on a heart of compassion
      - Put on love
  - Walk in holiness
    - To be holy is to be useful to God
    - Do what God has given you to do
    - We are each a part of the Body of Christ