

October 26, 2008

“It’s Time To Grow Up”

*“We are not meant to remain as children at the mercy of every wind of teaching. But we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love, and to grow up in every way into Christ the head.”*

*(Ephesians 4:14-15)*

- I. Spiritual growth is incarnational.
  - A. You can’t grow spiritually until you are born spiritually.
    1. It’s not a matter of imitating Christ.
    2. It’s a matter of inhabitation of Christ.
  - B. In spiritual growth you have a part and God has a part.
  
- II. Spiritual growth is intentional.
  - A. Spiritual growth is not automatic.
  - B. We grow by making and keeping commitments.
  - C. Our church’s goal: To bring people in and send people out on mission for God. *(Ephesians 4:13)*
  
- III. Spiritual growth is incremental.
  - A. Growth is not instant.
    1. The reality is we grow through stages.
  
- IV. Spiritual growth is personal.
  - A. We are all at different places in our spiritual journey.
  - B. We are not to compete in spiritual growth or compare ourselves to others.
  
- V. Spiritual growth is habitual.
  
- VI. Spiritual growth is relational.
  - A. The reality is we grow in community with other believers.
  - B. Christianity is not about what you know in your head, but what you love in your heart.  
*(Ephesians 4:16, NLT)*

- VII. Spiritual growth is behavioral.

*“Not everyone who calls Me their Lord will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only the one who does the will of My Father will get into heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)*

- A. Not everyone who says they are a Christian will be in heaven.
- B. I only believe the parts of the Bible that I practice.

- We grow warmer through fellowship.
- We grow deeper through discipleship.
- We grow stronger through worship.
- We grow broader through ministry.
- We grow larger through missions.

*“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)*

- C. When I practice what God’s Word teaches I will grow.
- D. How do you know when you’re spiritual mature?
  1. You produce fruit:
    - Action fruit.
    - Attitude fruit.