



From Childish to Mature Child Of God
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Main Auditorium & Chapel | 4 February 2024

Text: Ephesians 4:14-16

Big Idea: Biblical unity requires a growing spiritual maturity.

1. How does the text describe the consequences for the church when believers do not grow up spiritually? What are the practical ramifications for spiritual immaturity?

2. "We do not gain credibility and unity by silence, but by a courageous humility that demonstrates a growing spirituality." What does this statement mean to you? How do you understand courageous humility?

3. Infantile behavior is shown by following "every wind of teaching." 1 Timothy 1:7 and 4:7 would suggest that this could include 'meaningless talk,' 'godless myths,' and 'old wives' tales.' Every wind of teaching can therefore include being caught up in teachings that do little to mature the body of Christ. Can you think of examples of teachings circulating in the Christian world that are:

- a. Wrong – false teaching.
- b. Do little to mature the body of Christ.

How do we discern what is helpful or harmful to maturity?

4. We all have natural passions that can elevate themselves beyond becoming mature in the fullness of Christ. Has there been a passion that is more important than Christ and His grand vision for the church? How do we bring Christ into our passions?

5. Have you ever pursued a passion that led to relational tension with others? What did you do to address the tension?

6. Ephesians 4:15 says, "Instead, speaking the truth in love." Speaking the truth is literally, "truthing" and presents a challenge to embody the truth, which includes but is not limited to speaking.

a. How does this interoperation change the way we are to apply the verse?

b. What does embodying truth look like today?

7. According to Paul in the first part of Ephesians 4, unity based on spiritual maturity requires:

- Commitment to personal growth (vv1-2)
- Working to keep unity (v3)
- Confession of a common faith (vv4-6)
- Acknowledging our uniqueness (vv7-10)
- Accepting different passions and giftings (vv11-13)
- Living out the truth in love for Christ and others (vv14-15)

Which of these are you strongest in? Which of these require more of the Lord's work in your life?