Growing Up Into Christ
Eph. 4:11-16

Introduction:
A. Christians must grow up spiritually, if the church is to grow. (vs. 14-16; 2 Pet. 3:18).
   1. Knowledge acquired through searching the Scriptures. (Acts 17:11)
   2. Knowledge alone tends toward arrogance. (1 Cor. 8:1).
   3. Knowledge tempered by love and grace is needed.
B. As Christians grow in knowledge, they should grow up in four related areas:

Discussion:

II. We Should Grow In Our Perception. (cf. Eph. 5:17).
   B. Of the application.
      1. Perception or right and wrong, good and evil. (Heb. 5:14)
      2. Eunuch had the information, needed application. (cf. Acts 8:31-35).

III. We Should Grow In Our Perspective.
   A. Of the relative importance of temporal things and eternal things. (2 Cor. 4:16-18; Matt. 6:19-20, 24, 33).
   B. Of the relative importance of outward adorning and inward adorning. (1 Pet. 3:1-4).
   C. Of the relative importance of bodily strength and spiritual strength. (1 Tim. 4:8; Col. 2:23).
   D. Of the relative importance of what people think of us and what God thinks of us. (1 Cor. 4:1-5).
   E. Of the relative importance of what we think of ourselves and what God thinks of us. (Rom. 12:3).
   F. Of the relative importance of style and spirit of religious teachers and the substance of the teaching (Phil. 1:15-18).
   G. Of the relative importance of statistical growth. (of numbers and dollars) and solid spiritual growth.

IV. We Should Grow In Our Personalities.
   A. We excuse too many church problems as “personality conflicts.”
   B. We need to grow up in Scriptural personality traits. (Eph. 4:2,31,32; Col. 4:6; Jas 3:13-18; Tit. 3:3)
      1. Can both speak plainly and be kind.
      2. Can gracefully give and receive correction.
      3. Neither wimpish or bullish.

V. We Should Grow In Our Performance. (Jas. 1:22-25).
   A. Performance depends on three factors:
      1. Desire (2 Cor. 8:12).
      2. Ability (2 Cor. 8:3; Acts 11).
      3. Opportunity. (Gal. 6:10; Phil. 4:10).
   B. Can grow in all three areas:
      1. Can increase our desire or willingness to do.
      2. Can try to increase our ability.
      3. Can look for more opportunities.

Conclusion:
A. We need four things to really grow:
   1. Time to grow.
   2. Teaching to grow.
   3. Opportunity to grow. (Rom. 14:1)
   4. Desire to grow.
B. Time, teaching and opportunity will not do it - unless one wants to grow.
C. One unwilling to grow ceases to be a real babe in Christ - Just a big baby that must be petted and pampered to keep him going.