

Series: EPHESIANS: THE CHURCH EMPOWERED

Title: IT IS TIME TO GROW UP

Text: Ephesians 4:1-16

Date: Oct 27, 2024

Opening Line

Though growing old is not for the faint of heart, growing up is essential.

GROWING UP CALLS FOR A LIFE WORTHY OF OUR CALLING

What does the worthy walk look like?

Eph. 4:1-3

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- “Therefore” - Paul spent three chapters spelling out in glorious detail all that God did for us freely, by His grace.
- After explaining what God did for us Paul now he brings a call to live rightly and the way that we should walk.

The worthy walk does so with all humility and gentleness

- Growing up debating against cults...
- A prophet’s nature has many pitfalls–
 - Declaring what is right rather than leading people to truth.
 - Calling out sin rather than calling people to Jesus.
 - Being another person’s “Holy Spirit, Jr.” rather than calling them to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The worthy walk does so with patience, avoiding these:

- Anger – golfing with elders.
- Walking with others in frustration rather than patience.
- Bearing with others in their frailty with frustration rather than love.

The worthy walk maintains the unity in peace in the face of opposition.

- Being a person who brings peace rather than demand that the other demonstrate peace.
- As much as you are able – walk in peace –
- God is able – His Spirit brings this fruit.
 - You can't bear the fruit if you are not rooted and grounded in that love of Christ and walking in the Spirit throughout the day.

In a nutshell - BE KIND

GROWING UP CALLS FOR MATURING THROUGH GIFTS

The Gift Given to the One Church

Eph. 4:4-6

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- Body, Spirit, Lord, faith, baptism, God and Father of all
- Those who are adopted are the church and we are ONE
- One *pater* – father
- Who's you're daddy?

God made us one and we should act as one.

The Gift Given to Each One in the Church

Eph. 4:7-10

⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." ⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

God has called us to be in unity with all the church and with each other

- Jesus did not leave us without gifts to help us
- Each one receives the gifts that are need to grow
- The grace gift measured by Christ

- Psalm 68:18 - '*...even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.*'

The Gift of Leaders Given to the Church

Eph. 4:11

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers...

GROWING UP CALLS FOR BEING EQUIPPED

Equipped to reach unity in faith and knowledge

Eph. 4:12-13

¹² *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God...*

- Doing ministry to the church
- Attaining unity of faith
- Knowing Jesus

Equipped to reach maturity in truth

Eph. 4:13-14

...¹³ to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

- Growing into the image of Jesus – the Truth.
- Growing in strength against untruth.

Equipped to grow together working properly

Eph. 4:15-16

¹⁵ *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

- Showing the work with our speech, being loving.
- Showing our work by doing your part properly.

Bottom Line

Growing up means walking worthy by maintaining unity and building maturity.

Challenge

Be kind to each other in patience and unity.

Be active with the church, your calling, and with those who would mentor you.

Be equipped to know Jesus, to grow in truth, and to show the work God is doing.