

“Maturing Properly”

I Cor. 3:1-3

Open:

- Paul, through his letter to the church at Corinth, reveals to the Christians at Corinth that because of a lack of spiritual growth there are Bible truths that they have not been able to learn. **vs. 1**
- Paul reveals to the church at Corinth that the lack of growth was not because of a lack of proper nutrition. He reveals to them that they have become satisfied with remaining baby Christians. **vs. 2**
 - Most Christians choose to stay as a baby in their spiritual life, because they fear the responsibilities that come with spiritual growth.
 - The problem does not lie in being a baby or immature Christian; the problem arises when one chooses to not grow and remain immature.
- Look at the areas that Paul points out to the Christians at Corinth. **vs. 3**
 - Carnality Strife
 - Envy Divisions

Tran:

- The growth process should not be **pushed** along. *I'll: Washing Machine*
 - You cannot rush the pregnancy process and have a healthy newborn
 - You cannot expect a newborn to act and live life as a toddler.
 - You cannot expect a toddler to do the things that a teenager would do.
 - You cannot expect a teenager to see life and respond to life the same way as a mature adult.
 - “You can do things that will encourage growth; but you can not rush the process.”
- The growth process should not be **prolonged**.
 - While you can not rush the growth process, you also cannot avoid it and is certainly should not be delayed or postponed.
 - You can not allow a baby to live its life comfortable using the bathroom in a diaper.
 - While a 1st grader may enjoy his class, he must one day face the challenges of 2nd grade.
 - Most unsuccessful adults are young people who never stepped out and put to practice what they learned. They allowed the fear of failure to pause the growth process.
- The growth process is to be **perpetual**. *“Choosing to ignore the growth process does not eliminate your responsibilities.”*
 - A teenager who sees success in middle school can not dwell on those success alone or they will fail in high school. They must use that success as a foundation for future successes.
 - A young person who is successful at a job for one day can not become satisfied with yesterday’s success. They must return to work everyday and build on the previous successes they have experienced.
 - A person who has been successful as a young person; but is now facing the older years can not dwell on past successes or they will end up being an angry and difficult senior citizen.
 - “You are to grow until the day you die; because you will die the day you stop growing.”

Application: I Cor. 3:10-13

- A building with no foundation will crumble.
- A foundation left without a building will crumble.
- A successful life is one who has the proper foundation and one who has followed the building code.
 - You cannot grow without the proper foundation.
 - You can not decide to lay a new foundation over the one that's been laid.
 - You can not use sub-grade materials and get the quality of life you are desiring to have .

I. Allow “wise masterbuilders” help you lay the proper foundations.

- **Eph. 2:19-22** “*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; [20] And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; [21] In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: [22] In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*
- a. Notice the foundation upon which a Christian’s life is built.
 - i. Holy Spirit = The engineer and contractor.
 - ii. Jesus Christ = The chief corner stone.
 - iii. Wise “master builders” = The labourers
 - 1. Apostles
 - 2. Prophets
 - 3. Saints – Godly counselors
- b. Recognize it is your choice to yield to those that God has put in your life to help you build your life.
 - i. You can choose who to listen to – Yourself, carnal man, wise masterbuilders
 - ii. You can choose what materials you use – Durable and valuable metals or things that decay.
 - **I Cor. 3:12-15**
 - iii. You can not choose the outcome of your decisions. – The fire/ storms will try your works.
 - **Matt. 7:24-27**

II. Realize there is coming a day when being a child is no longer an acceptable choice.

- **I Cor. 13: 11** “*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”*
- a. Recognize there came a day when the choice was made to go from being a child to being an adult.
 - i. You can act like a child your entire life, but your body while continue to develop into and adult.
 - ii. The process of becoming an adult begins with the proper foundation during childhood.
 - iii. The day for becoming an adult is not on the calendar, it is a gradual process.
- b. Recognize the different approaches to life based on the maturity level.
 - i. Children speak before they understand and before they think.
 - ii. Adults think then speak only after they understand that which they have thought about.

III. Recognize that one day you will be called upon to be a “master builder.”

- **Heb. 5:12-14** “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. [13] For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. [14] But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

a. You need to learn while your still the student, so you can teach when you become the teacher.

II Tim. 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

- i. There is much more to the Christina life than doctrine, standards, and salvation. While these are the foundation, without a building these become wasted. **Heb. 6:1-2** “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, [2] Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

ii. You need to do your due diligence as a Christian to grow so you can become fruitful in life.

II Peter 1:5-8 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; [7] And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. [8] For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- The reason we have immature and unlearned children (both spiritually and physically) is because we have generations of Christians and parents who never grew up. They remained kid’s and never grew to the point of being able to teach their kids.

b. You need to create habits now that will turn into instinct later. **Heb. 5:14b** says “...those who by reason of use have their senses exercised...”

- “You will never rise to the occasion, you will always fall back to your training.”

- i. Many never grow to being wise because they never exercise their knowledge.
- ii. Many never grow to be strong soldiers because they never train. **II Tim. 2:3** “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”
- iii. Many never become godly because they deny [refuse to accept] it by how they live their life.

II Tim. 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Close:

- Are you building on the foundation you have been given?
- What type of materials are you using to build you life out of?
- Have you become satisfied in the Christian life and stopped growing/ exercising?
- Are you ready to be a teacher?

Peter 3:18a

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...”