

*A Healthy Church:
Growing Up in Christ*
Ephesians 4: 14-15

Matthew 7:16 (NIV)
By their fruit you will recognize them...

Ephesians 4:14 - 15 (NIV)
Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

By Putting Away
CHILDISH THINGS

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

1 Corinthians 14:20 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind.

By Striving After
CHRIST'S IDEAL

Ephesians 4:13 (NCV)

This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection.

How do we do this?

- Study the scriptures
- Surround your lives with people of Godly influences
- Submit to accountability!

By Partaking in the
DEEP TRUTH'S of GOD

Hebrews 5:14 (NCV)
But solid food is for those who are grown up. They have practiced in order to know the difference between good and evil.

1 John 2:14 (NIV)
I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Daniel in Babylon

Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego before the fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.

SO WHAT?

When does growth happen?

When YOU determine for it to happen...when YOU make up YOUR minds!

How does it happen?

When YOU Take Action!

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