

Grow to Maturity (1 Peter 1:13 – 2:3)

Bondservant – Part 2

Life Church St. Louis – February 8, 2015

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Ephesians 4:11-14 (NIV) [Christ] gave some to be ... pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, ... until we all ... become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants,

1. Prepare your _____ for action

1 Peter 1:13 (NIV) Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1A. Do not _____ to evil desires

1 Peter 1:14 (NIV) As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

1B. Be _____ in all you do

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV) But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

2. _____ the truth of God's Word

1 Peter 1:22a (NIV) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth ...

2A. _____ one another deeply

1 Peter 1:22 (NIV) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

2B. You are _____ by God's Word

1 Peter 1:23 (NIV) For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

3. Get rid of _____ attitudes

1 Peter 2:1 (NIV) Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

3A. _____ the spiritual milk of God's Word

1 Peter 2:2a (NIV) Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, ...

3B. _____ in your salvation

1 Peter 2:2-3 (NIV) Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Grow to Maturity (1 Peter 1:13 – 2:3) Study Guide

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Intro. In what ways are the growth of a physical baby to maturity similar to the spiritual growth of a believer?

What do you think are the characteristics of a spiritually mature believer?

According to Ephesians 4:11-14, what provision has Christ made for spiritual growth to maturity?

According to Ephesians 4:11-14, what must you do in order to grow to maturity?

Why is spiritual growth an important element in building a strong marriage?

1A. Why do you think that spiritual growth is not an important priority for many believers (1 Peter 1:13)? What important decision must be made in order to grow spiritually?

1B. How does obedience or conformity to the world, help or hinder spiritual growth respectively (1 Peter 1:14)?

1C. What does it mean to be holy in all you do (1 Peter 1:15-16)?

1D. What practical actions could you take as you make spiritual growth a priority in your life?

2A. In what ways does obeying the truth of God's Word bring purity to your life (1 Peter 1:22a)? Why are many people deceived by merely listening to God's Word (James 1:22)?

2B. Why is love for other believers in a church, a mark of a true believer (1 Peter 1:22)? How is growth in love, a mark of spiritual maturity?

2C. How is God's Word like a seed that brings about new birth (1 Peter 1:23)?

2D. Why are daily personal Bible study, weekly learning through a pastor and weekly participating in a small group Bible study essential practices for spiritual growth?

3A. How do the sins listed in 1 Peter 2:1 hinder relationships in the church family and so stunt spiritual growth?

3B. Describe how a believer should crave the spiritual milk of God's Word like a newborn baby (1 Peter 2:2a).

3C. How does God's Word help a believer to grow spiritually (1 Peter 2:2-3)?

3D. What changes do you need to make in your life regarding God's Word in order to accelerate your spiritual growth?