On Growing Up
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I. Introduction.

    A. Text: Ephesians 4:12-16.

    B. The church is here to do what no other group can possibly do—manifest the life and the power of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 61)

    C. The ministry is carried out by the ministry of many.

    D. The supreme task of the Christian is to discover his gift and put it to work.

II. The goal of the Christian life: attaining to the unity of the faith to mature manhood.

    A. The fulfillment of the Great Commission is very important, but God is looking for mature manhood above all else.

    B. We all want to live a fulfilled life.

    C. Most think they are mature because of the power of deceit.

        1. The only real measuring stick of maturity is the measuring stick of Christ.

        2. Christ reveals all the great qualities of manhood.

        3. If one measures himself truly by Christ, it can be discouraging.

III. The goal of the Christian life is a process of growth.

    A. It takes time to learn principles and learning how to practice them.

    B. Sometimes, it takes a lifetime to grow up.

    C. We ought to be eager to grow up.

    D. One must look to see whether the factors necessary for growth are present.

        1. The Bible contains the necessary factors for growth.

        2. Dependability and faithfulness is a mark of maturity.

        3. The mature Christian life is one lived in the entire range of human experience with dependability.

        4. Childishness is marked by being undiscerning—the enemy can easily trap them.

IV. Helpful checks for personal growth.

A. Speaking (or living) the truth in love.

B. The presence of acceptance of the ministry of other Christians to a person.

    1. Christians need each other.

    2. The body is to minister to one another, each one content to be different and acknowledge the same of others.

Application questions:

1. Why does the speaker argue that the Great Commission is not the central goal of the Christian experience?
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2. How is viewing Christian maturity as a process helpful in avoiding discouragement?
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3. Which check for personal growth did you find most helpful? Explain.
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