**Ephesians 4:14-16**

***Grow Up***

Introduction

1. Are you still a spiritual baby?

2. Ephesians 4:14-16 Paul is talking about growing up and the reason it is necessary to grow

 up.

Are you still a spiritual baby?

**I. OUR STABILITY 4:14**

The purpose of growth, maturity…Christ likeness is given.

1. ***Childish*** *no more children*
2. Literally, *that which does not talk*
3. *Infant* is the opposite of a mature man with Christ-like characteristic (v. 13)

\*Without the Truth there will be no maturity.

\**Infant* can be described in many ways: they cry, throw fits if they don’t get their way, mess their pants, they are totally self centered, very weak, totally dependent, they never add anything productive.

 ***B. Churning*** *tossed to and fro Infants* become waves.

 **1.** This is a nautical term of sea waves or foam. It means to be agitated mentally.

 **2.** They go with popular sentiment and are always agitated. They have foam, but no

 substance. They never grow to the point that what they have is theirs.

 ***C. Carried About*** *carried about with every wind of doctrine…*like a ship with no rudder.

**1.** Without the Word as their absolute authority, and no grounding, there is no

 growth. *Carried about* they have itching ears, but they never come to the Truth.

 **2**. The immature Christian is gullible. They fall for a lot of foolish stuff in the name

 of Christianity. They are a sucker for every new teaching that comes along.

 Children are gullible and easily deceived.

 \**By the slight of men Slight* is the Greek word *kubia* from which we get cube or

 dice. The illustration is that of dice playing and all manner of trickery is used to

 win… “Loaded Dice”. Without absolute truth you will have no standard!

 \**Cunning craftiness* is similar and means, *clever manipulation.* With this word,

 error is made to look like Truth.

 \**By which they lie in wait to deceive…*they are subtle, a systematized plan to fool.

 The average Christian is tripped up or snared so easily!

Are you still a spiritual baby?

**II. OUR SANCTITY 4:15**

1. ***Our Walk*** *speaking the* ***truth*** *in love*
2. Literally the word is *truthing it.*
3. This is more than verbalizing truth. It is matching words of truth with actions and attitudes. The **truth** determines our life style in a spirit of love. *Love* is *agapao*…Iforget about myself.
4. ***Our Way*** *may grow up into Him in all things*
5. The goal or end product is Christ-likeness (v. 13) **Jesus must be seen!**
6. *All things “The believer must sail his little ship with everything pointing towards Jesus.”*
7. *Grow up…***it takes time**. Anything of any value takes time. Be patient as we grow!
8. ***Our Wisdom*** *who is the head…Christ*
9. *Head* indicates Christ’s authority, leadership and controlling power (Col 2:19)
10. Illustration of an EKG…signifies Brain Dead. The brain is the control center of physical life. To grow into His likeness is to be totally surrendered to His controlling power and obedient to His will (Gal 2:20). **It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives within me!**
11. *Infants* live by their own strength and never grow up!

Are you still a spiritual baby?

**III. OUR SOLIDARITY 4:16**

*From Whom…*It is all from Jesus Christ! The Body is functioning like a well oiled

 machine. He must control…we must surrender!

1. ***The Body’s Energy***

The key to this verse is the prepositions: ***from*** *Him…****by*** *which…****according to*** *the effectual working…****in*** *the measure…****of every*** *part…****of*** *the body…****unto*** *the edifying of itself in love*

1. *Fitly joined together..*various parts of the body are integrated and firmly held together by ligaments.
2. *Compacted…held together...*is closely knit, tight, compacted in correlation and function. **This is the result of Christ’s power!**
3. ***The Body’s Effectiveness***

*By that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in measure of every part…*

1. *By that which every joint supplieth…*the joining together or union where spiritual supply or resources are passed from one member to another producing ministry and growth. God uses us to accomplish His purpose.
2. *The proper working of each individual part…measure…allotted portion.* This recalls the importance of each believer’s gifts. The growth of the church is not clever promotion or methods, but every member of the Body, surrendered to Christ…Christ flowing through them, expressed in their gifts, touching other believers. The Body will grow!!
3. ***The Body’s Edification***

*Maketh increase of the Body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

1. *Growth* is a present middle verb, indicating that the Body produces its own growth through interacting dynamics. Growth does not come from outward forces, but inward vital power!
2. *Unto the edifying of itself (building up of itself)* Isolated Christians will lose power, effectiveness and purpose. His gifts lie dormant. This one becomes dissatisfied, defeated, and discouraged. **We need each other!**

**Are you a spiritual baby?**

**Are you growing?**

**Are you involved, using your gifts?**