

The Continual Growth Process Within the Body of Christ - Eph 4:11-16

Our Calling As Christians

Walk worthy!
Ephesians 4:1

We are known how we love God!
I Corinthians 8:3

Be His workmanship!
Ephesians 2:10

Be rich in good works!
I Timothy 6:18

Be zealous of good works!
Titus 2:14

Maintain good works!
Titus 3:8

Have a good testimony!
I Thess 1:6-10; Phil 6

We are able to please God daily!
I Thessalonians 4:1-7

Keep our walk away from the evil works of the world!
II Timothy 4:17,18

If we live godly, we will suffer!
II Timothy 3:12-14

We will reign with Christ according to our works and suffering!
II Timothy 2:11,12

Be that vessels of gold!
Romans 9:22,23

See what needs to be seen!
Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:18

God's Gifts to Help Us Grow!

And he gave some,
Apostles
Prophets
Evangelists
Pastors & teachers
Ephesians 4:11

As did Paul, these men care! They fear that you might miss what God has given them to give to you! **Gal 2:12; 4:8-11; Phil 2:14-16; I Thess 3:5**

They Preach to "YOU"
Eph 3:1,2,4,13,16,17; I Cor 1:24; Phil 1:25

But they still didn't preach "ourselves." **Galatians 2:17**

It is NOT about ourselves or our own kids. It is about His Book & His Glory! **Eph 3:21**

... to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.
I Thess 5:12,13

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Doctrine - Reproof - Correction
Instruction in Righteousness
II Timothy 3:16

Warning - Teaching - Presenting
Colossians 1:27-30
Acts 20:32

For the...

- ⇒ Perfecting of the saints
- ⇒ Work of the ministry
- ⇒ Edifying of the body of Christ

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.
I Corinthians 2:1

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. **I Corinthians 1:18,21**

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. **I Corinthians 13:8-10**

To Grow ...

In a Personal 'Crucified' Walk!
Galatians 2:20,21 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

In Judgment
Phil 1:9,10; I Cor 2:15

In Faith
II Thessalonians 1:3a We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly...

In Maturity
I Cor 13:11; Eph 4:14 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

In Holiness
Acts 4:31; 13:46; 15:26; 19:8; Rom 15:15; II Cor 7:4; 10:12,13; Eph 3:12; 6:19,20; Phil 1:14,20; I Thes 2:2 I Tim 3:13

With Abounding Charity Towards the Brethren
I Thess 1:3b ..and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

In Grace
2Tm:2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Into Him
Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

In Joy
Phil 1:25 - And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

Goals & Objectives

Till We All Come in the...
 Unity of the faith!
 Knowledge of the Son of God!
 Unto a perfect man!
 Unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ!

That We Henceforth Be No More...
 Children Tossed to and fro!
 Carried about with every wind of doctrine!
 Deceived by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness!

That God May Give Unto You...
 The spirit of wisdom in the knowledge of him!
 The spirit of revelation in the knowledge of him!
 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened
 Know what is the hope of his calling!
 Know what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints!
 Know what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power!

That He Would Grant You, According to the Riches of His Glory...
 To be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man!
 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith!
 You be rooted and grounded in love!
 You be able to comprehend what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of the love of Christ!
 Know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge!
 That ye might be filled with all the fulness of God!

The Final Product

Ephesians 4:16
 From whom the whole body is:
 Fitly joined together!
 Compacted by that which every joint supplieth!
 According to the effectual working in the measure of every part
 Maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The End Results?
 The home family and the local church family along with our universal church family members that are strong enough to take care of themselves with God through Jesus Christ in the...
King James 1611!
 Then - others would want who & what you have!

You Must Be Seeking God's Direction and Be Willing to Grow!

*In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. **II Timothy 2:24-26***

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **Col 3:1***

*Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. **Colossians 4:12***

*This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. **I Timothy 3:1***

*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **Eph 4:1-3***

*That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. **Ephesians 5:27***

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. **Ephesians 3:20,21***

**When the "NEW MAN" is put on,
CHARACTERS will be made**

(Ephesians 4:17-32; Isaiah 61:10; Acts 26:18)

1. The Christian should **put away lying** (vs. 25). The verse is self-explanatory (Romans 12:5; Zechariah 8:16). We are members of the same body. This word *neighbour* refers to another Christian in Christ. It is extremely difficult to be honest at ALL TIMES. The Christian who will not admit this is somewhat of a liar himself.

2. The Christian should **speak... the truth** (vs. 25).

3. **Be ye angry, and sin not...** (vs. 26). The Christian can get angry at times (Titus 1:13; II Corinthians 13:2), but he is not to "serve sin" when he gets angry as it gives place to the devil. Jesus was angry at nothing but sin and was angry at no one but the religious leaders of the Ecumenical council of His day.

4. **...let not the sun go down upon your wrath** (vs. 26). Twelve hours is long enough to be mad at anybody. If you go on with it, you will lose sleep. You may get ulcers from a grudge if you keep nursing it (Leviticus 19:18); and if you die in your sleep, you will have to deal with it again at the Judgment Seat of Christ (I Tim 5:25).

5. **Neither give place to the devil** (vs. 27). You will do this if you keep on nursing grudges (cf. II Corinthians 2:10-11).

6. **Let him that stole steal no more...** (vs. 28).

7. **Let him labour, working with his hands ... that he may have to give...** (vs. 28). The Bible encourages men to work (II Thessalonians 3:10). The real Christian goes beyond the requirements of providing for his own house; he works so that *he may have to give to him that needeth* (vs. 28).

8,9. The eighth admonition is against **corrupt communication** (vs. 29), and the positive half of the verse (the ninth admonition) encourages **that which is good ... that it may minister grace unto the hearers**. *Corrupt communication* includes the passing on of rumors, the inventing of slander, the dirty joke, the "off color joke" (see 5:3-4), and any language that is foul, filthy, rude, or obscene. "*Good words and fair speeches*" do not remedy the problem because "*good words and fair speeches*" (Romans 16:18) are quite characteristic of the most corrupt communicators.

Also see Acts 24:16; II Timothy 2:23-26 about being offensive and striving with those caught up Satan's snares.

The AV 1611 has never been guilty of a corrupt communication or of a corrupt text; however, the *scholars* who have lied to their followers and 'customers' are professional liars & corrupters!

For more information, contact:

10. The tenth warning is "grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (vs. 30; cf. 1:13-14). Since the Holy Spirit is a Person (John 16:13), He can be grieved, He can be resisted (Acts 7:51), and He can be lied to (Acts 5:3). The Christian is sealed unto the Day of Redemption exactly as the unsaved sinner is sealed unto the Day of Perdition (Eph 1:13).

The Holy Spirit is grieved with foolish talking and jesting, sin and uncleanness, all unrighteousness, lying, loafing, exaggerating, self-pity, lack of concern, lack of gratitude, lack of fruit (see Galatians 5:22), grumbling, murmuring, stinginess, jealousy, false accusations, lack of faith, refusal to testify, indifference to the Bible, perversion of the truth, failure to praise God, and worrying.

"The day of redemption" is the "day of Christ" (see II Corinthians 1:22; I Corinthians 1:8; 4:5; II Timothy 4:8; II Thessalonians 2:2).

Now, follow six more admonitions; the Christian is to get rid of

**11. Bitterness; 12. Wrath; 13. Anger; 14. Clamour
15. Evil speaking; 16. All malice**

Anger is cruel, **wrath** is outrageous (Proverbs 27:4), **bitterness** is sin (Hebrews 12:15), **clamour** is one of the works of the flesh (Ephesians 4:31), **evil speaking** is a violation of Ephesians 4:29, and **malice** is part of the old life (Titus 3:3). **Malice** is an attitude; **clamour** is the result of anger and wrath. **Evil speaking** can cause bitterness. **Bitterness** is a stimulant to **wrath** and **anger**. (More light on these terms is found in Acts 8:23; Rom 3:14; 12:5; I Tim 6:4; Col. 3:8).

17. Be ye kind; 18. Tenderhearted; 19. Forgiving one another

What should be the easiest thing to do is often the hardest. Personal hurts and personal injuries are to be overlooked, forgotten, put away, or ignored altogether (Colossians 3:13).

The tendency to retaliate where one has been slandered or reviled is part of the old humus of human nature. The passage is not referring to being **kind** towards critics who hate and attack God's word (note Titus 1:10-12; I Timothy 1:20), but it is a personal reference to personal dealings. II Timothy 2:24-26

Christians are very **unkind** to one another; they are not in the least **tenderhearted** in the middle of church splits, doctrinal controversies, and business meetings. The ones who talk the most about courtesy, love, politeness, and soft words are usually the most vicious and venomous in an out-and-out showdown.

Forgiving one another should come easy in view of the fact that ... **God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you** (vs. 32).

But many Christians were saved in their early years and it is very hard to convince them that God had to forgive them of anything really BAD. These "*Christian nurtured*," "*Christian raised*,"

"*Christian trained*" "*Believers*" are often the most vicious foes of Biblical preaching that one can imagine. They hold grudges for decades and even pass them on to their children. (Luke 7:47).

Beyond the Crucifixion

Following Paul's
GREATER COMMISSION

makes strong families and healthy churches
as we all learn to live a life "beyond the cross!"

Saved

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

I Corinthians 2:2

Crucified Flesh

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Galatians 5:24

Complete Crucifixion

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Galatians 6:14

Risen

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:12

Seek Things Above

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

**A Joyful Life
Beyond the Cross**