

# Growing To Be Like God

Ephesians 4:11-32

# The Need To Grow

- Growth from birth is needed.
  - Jn. 3:3, 7 – “Born of water and the Spirit”
  - I Pet. 1:23 – “Born again not of corruptible seed...”
- “And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” – Eph. 4:11-13
- What will people look like who grow to be like God?

# A Calm Steadfastness

- Steadfast in doctrine – “no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine,” (V. 14)
- Steadfast in development – “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ” (v. 15)
- Steadfast in devotion— “the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (v. 16)

# A Clear Separation

- From the works of darkness – “...you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, **18** having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God...” (v. 17, 18)
- From a walk of darkness – “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, **23** and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” (v. 22-24)

# Christ-like Standards

- In how they act – “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good...” (v. 28)
- In how they react.
  - “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **27** nor give place to the devil. (v. 26,27)
  - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” (v. 32)
- In how they interact.
  - “Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor*” (v. 25)
  - “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth...And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God” (v. 29, 30)

# How do We Grow To Be Like God?

- “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21)