

The Book of Ephesians

Ephesians 4:14-16

Session 33: Growing Up into Christ

As we start the session today, let's take a bird's eye view of where we are in our study in Ephesians.

We came through Romans which is the foundational doctrine upon which the rest of our godly edification will be built.

First and 2 Corinthians and Galatians contain corrective and remedial doctrines which deal with the three phases of the satanic policy of evil (PoE). We are covering these books on Tuesday nights (the 2nd and 4th) and they are important and necessary. (Please don't miss them, if you are planning to be a fully educated son.) The recordings are on YouTube and the MBI Dropbox.

The first four chapters of 1 Corinthians concern the reproof, correction and instruction (RCI) of our godly thinking.

Chapters 5-10 concern the RCI of our godly living.

Chapters 11-16 concern the RCI of our godly labor.

The book alerts us to the phase 1 attack of the PoE, attack the message.

In Ephesians, we are educated in the fulness of the blessings we have in Christ; which blessings are designed to advance and perfect our godliness (thinking, living and laboring).

The first three chapters deal with the perfecting and furthering of our godly thinking along with a warning of the advanced tactics of the PoE's phase 1 attacks, and the remedy for them. These attacks are designed to corrupt our godly thinking.

Ephesians 4:1-5:17 contains the doctrines for the perfecting and furthering of our godly living, along with warnings of the advanced tactics of the PoE's phase 1 attacks, and the remedies for them. These attacks are designed to corrupt our godly living.

Ephesians 5:18-6:24 contains the doctrines for the perfecting and furthering of our godly labor, along with the warnings of the advanced tactics of the PoE's phase 1 attacks, and the remedies for them. These attacks are meant to corrupt our godly labor.

What I hope to accomplish by this is to say that we all need all of the doctrine. If you are not able to catch it live on Zoom, then please avail yourselves of the recordings.

Now, let's pick up our study in Ephesians 4.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 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; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and 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.

What is the "henceforth" referring to? In other words, when we all come in the unity of the faith (once Paul's doctrine is completed) from that time forward (henceforth) we are no longer to be children. Children in what way? Children in understanding.

The context is about the gifts. As good as they were, the gifts were "in part," which means our knowledge was incomplete. But once we have the completed revelation of scripture, we need no longer be "children."

When we trust Christ, we are immediately made to be part of God's family; sons and daughters of our heavenly Father; adult sons and daughters. That is who we

are positionally; adults. But to be adults practically, to be adults in our understanding, to be adults in knowledge, we need to learn and engage with Paul’s epistles, for these are the books which are written specifically to us and about us. Yes, we should learn the rest of the Bible too, but our primary focus is on the part that will cause us to “grow up” as adult sons of God.

There are spiritual dangers associated with being “children” in our understanding.

Ephesians 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;

When knowledge is incomplete, people are prone to be “tossed to and fro” and “carried about with every wind of doctrine.” To be “tossed to and fro” is an image of a ship in a storm. This is a metaphor for a spiritual life of instability, uncertainty, doubt, insecurity and wavering.

To be “carried about by every wind of doctrine” indicates they have no settled course. They don’t know where they are going or, if they do, they don’t know how to get there. It means they are greatly affected by the influences around them.

Now, take a look at those things which are tossing them and “blowing them about:” the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness.” If you look back up at your Notetaker, you will notice that in Ephesians 4, we are being prepared for the Advanced Tactics (AT) of phase 1 of the PoE. First Corinthians was the book that alerted us to the initial attacks of phase 1, attack the message. But now, as simple sons who are engaged in the education to give us the “young man” phase of our education, the PoE will ramp up its attack on the message, and this is what we are being warned about right here.

And the first ones that will be casualties of this attack are those who are not learning and engaging with Paul’s doctrine. And by engaging, I am referring to the process whereby we, not just on Sunday or Tuesday...where we, on purpose, take our understanding of the doctrine and begin to put it into practice in our everyday lives; we consciously meditate on the doctrine and what it is designed to do in us, we go over the scriptures and even memorize scripture for the purpose of keeping

the doctrine in our thinking, and we pray about the doctrine, making our requests made known unto God about His Spirit, who lives in us, taking this portion of His word and producing the life of His Son in us.

In Philippians 4, we can see this process. The chapter begins with an exhortation to “stand fast.” Looking back up at your Notetaker, you will see that Philippians is alerting us to the advanced tactics of the phase 2 attack of the policy of evil (PoE); attack the messenger. So, Paul is exhorting them to “stand fast.”

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so **stand fast** in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

Titus 1:9 **Holding fast** the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers

Then Paul tells them not to be anxious (full of care) about the things which are happening to them.

Philippians 4:6 **Be careful for nothing**; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

But instead of being anxious, by prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known unto God. Your requests for what? Your requests are for the working of God’s word in your inner man, so that the phase 2 attacks do not achieve their goals.

And what will be the result of this process?

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The end result of the process is for us to have the peace of God in the midst of the attacks against us. And what will that peace of God do? It will keep, or guard our hearts and minds so that we are not overwhelmed by the things taking place, so that we do not begin to doubt, so we do not become unsure, so that we are not “blown about by every false doctrine” which will come against us and our sonship life. For these are “doctrines of devils” designed to make you quit and go back to your old way of thinking.

We don't want to be children. Why not? Because God has made us to be adults and if we desire to be children then we are not walking worthy of our calling.

- Children have to be told to do the things they ought to do, and they don't show initiative (Earthly: Clean your room, make your bed, pick up your clothes, mow the yard, wash the dishes, etc. – Spiritually: Read the scriptures, pray, study/meditate, and work on your own edification and get involved in the edification of others. Adults do this.)
- Children don't see down the road; not thinking about the long-term consequences of their actions (Look down the road to your life, the JSOC, and the ages to come. Adults do this.)
- Children's priorities are out of balance.
- For children, obstacles are an excuse to quit instead of using hardships as an opportunity to grow. Learn to utilize the doctrine you know to grow through difficulties and oppositions.
- Children are Selfish; (they haven't learned godly love and charity)

*Lord help me live from day to day, in such a self-forgetful way,
that even when I kneel to pray, my prayer shall be for others-
Others, Lord, yes others, let this my motto be,
Help me to live for others, that I might live for thee.*

- Children cannot discern deception
- Children don't know how to stand alone; (it is more important to fit in than to stand for truth; take the path of least resistance.) This takes getting some things firmly in your mind so you can "stand" on those things. Settle the issue of the things you will do, and will not do.
- Children want the good things of life without doing the things beforehand necessary to provide for them. Adults know there is a price to be paid for everything.
- Children's prayers mostly consist of asking for things.

We could keep going, but you get the idea.

The final point I want to make about this is that there is an aspect of Satan's PoE to keep believers in childhood spiritually. Satan does not want us to "grow up into Him" as Paul instructs us to do (Ephesians 4:15).