

Grow Up!

Long Beach Alliance Church • November 16th, 2008 • Pastor Chris Lankford

I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

~ 1st Corinthians 3:2-3 (NASB)

1) Peter Pan Christianity

- A) In contrast to being “spiritual” (1st Corinthians 3:1, “controlled by the Spirit”), these followers of Jesus Christ are “of flesh” (3:1, “controlled by natural/fleshly drives”).**

- B) Their refusal to “grow up” into a deeper relationship of submission to God’s Spirit (3:2) is likened to an adult who is still behaving like an infant, still depending on “milk” -- immature.**

- C) This is the ultimate “Peter Pan” complex! Given the opportunity to grow up and mature, these Christians instead choose to remain immature -- behaving like children toward one another (3:3).**

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- C) This is the ultimate “Peter Pan” complex! Given the opportunity to grow up and mature, these Christians instead choose to remain immature -- behaving like children toward one another (3:3).**

D) This is most revealed in the relationships which followers of Christ have with one another! “Jealousy and strife” (3:3) and factions (3:4) are ripping the church apart!

E) The point is this: When people become the focus (“I could do a better job at that than so-n-so”) or preferences become the focus (“I don’t like it when Joe teaches, I prefer when John teaches”), we are acting like immature children, sucking from the bottle-of-fleshliness instead of...

2) Growing Up Into Cruciformed Lives

A) The point is that each of us are servants of God (3:5)! Paul calls himself a field-hand (planter), and Apollos a water-boy (waterer), but places the life-force of the church in God’s able hands (3:6).

B) Scripture makes it clear, the servants are nothing (3:7), only God matters! In fact, the servants (who are equal, 3:8) will be rewarded for their labor -- but the focus is not on them, it should be on God!

C) Farmhands are interchangeable and they are replaceable. Leaders in the church should never abuse their positions as though they are something other than servants. In fact, everyone in the church is equal! Only Christ matters (cf. 2:2)! Servants follow their Master and do not place their devotion on other servants, nor on their own will over the Master’s will.

D) “GOD” gets the credit -- we are His workers, His field, and He is building (3:9) us on top of the great foundation of His Son, Jesus Christ (3:10).

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