

Message Three
**Growing Up into Christ in All Things
and Learning Christ as the Reality Is in Jesus
for the Corporate Living of the One New Man**

Various Hymns: 395

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:13-16, 20-21, 24

- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

I. For the corporate living of the one new man, we need to grow up into Christ in all things—Eph. 4:14-16, 24:

- Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
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Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- A. To grow up into Christ is to have Christ increase in us in all things until we arrive at a full-grown man—vv. 13-15.
Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- B. We all need to grow up into Christ in all things, that is, in every single thing, whether big or small—v. 15:
Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
1. There are still many things in which we have not grown up into Christ; in these things we are not in Christ but are outside of Christ.
 2. When we all grow up into Christ in all things, we all will be one in Christ; this is the universal one new man—v. 24.
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
 3. Growing up into Christ in all things is for the practical existence of the universal one new man—v. 24.
Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
 4. The growth into Christ in verse 15 equals the putting on of the new man in verse 24.
Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
5. The full-grown man in verse 13 refers to the one new man in verse 24, who has become full-grown.
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- C. Ephesians 4 speaks of the perfecting of the new man through the growth of life; the one new man created by Christ must be perfected in order to function:
- Eph 4 be omitted.
1. In Ephesians 2:15 we see the creation of the new man organically; in 4:13-16 we see the perfecting of the new man in relation to his function.
- Eph 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
2. The organically perfect one new man needs to be perfected through the growth of life in order to function in a proper way—vv. 12-15:
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- Eph 4:14 That we may be no longer little children tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching in the sleight of men, in craftiness with a view to a system of error,
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- a. The one new man can become perfect in relation to his function only through receiving the proper nourishment; this is one of the deepest concepts in the book of Ephesians.
- b. We need to fulfill our responsibility to perfect the one new man through nourishing and cherishing—5:29.
- Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,
- c. The more the one new man grows through receiving the proper nourishment, the more he will function normally.
3. For the growth of the corporate new man, we need to experience the crucified, resurrected, ascended, and descending Christ so that the all-inclusive Christ is wrought into us to be our everything; then the organically perfect new man will become perfect functionally—3:16-17a; 4:13, 24.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...

- Eph 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
 Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

II. For the corporate living of the one new man, we need to learn Christ as the reality is in Jesus—vv. 20-21:

- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
- A. In verse 20 Paul speaks of learning Christ:
 Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
1. Christ is not only life to us but also an example; in His life on earth the Lord Jesus set up a pattern, a mold—John 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:21.
 John 13:15 For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you.
 1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;
 2. To be saved is to be put into Christ by God—1 Cor. 1:30.
 1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
 3. By means of baptism God put us into Christ, who is the pattern; to be baptized is to be placed into Christ as the mold—Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27.
 Rom 6:3 Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
 Gal 3:27 For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
 4. By being placed into the mold, we have put off the old man and have put on the new man—Eph. 4:22, 24.
 Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
 Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
 5. We learn Christ according to the mold of the life of Jesus, which is reality—vv. 20-21.
 Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
 6. To learn Christ is to be put into Christ as the mold; it is to be molded into the pattern set up by Him during His years on earth—v. 20.
 Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- B. The expression *the reality is in Jesus* refers to the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels; the life of Jesus was a life of reality—v. 21:
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
1. In verses 17 and 21 we see a contrast between the vanity of the mind and the reality in Jesus.
 Eph 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
 2. Reality is the shining of light; light is the source, and reality is the expression—John 8:12:
 John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
 - a. The Lord Jesus is the shining of God, who is light—Heb. 1:3; 1 John 1:5.
 Heb 1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- b. Because in every aspect of the Lord's living on earth there was the shining of light, His life was a life of reality, a life of the shining God Himself; that life of reality was the expression of God—John 8:12; 14:6.
- John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- C. The living of the one new man should be exactly the same as the living of Jesus—Eph. 4:20:
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
1. The way that the Lord Jesus lived on earth is the way that the new man should live today—Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:57; 4:34; 5:17, 19, 30; 6:38; 17:4.
- Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- Matt 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.
- John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father is working until now, and I also am working.
- John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing from Himself except what He sees the Father doing, for whatever that One does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
- John 5:30 I can do nothing from Myself; as I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me.
- John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth, finishing the work which You have given Me to do.
2. Our standard of living must be according to the reality in Jesus—Eph. 4:20:
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- a. He was one with God, and He lived a life in which He did everything in God, with God, and for God.
- b. The human living of Jesus was according to the reality, that is, according to God Himself, full of righteousness and holiness—v. 24.
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
3. We need to learn Christ and be taught in Him to live a life of reality—vv. 20-21; 2 John 1; John 4:23-24.
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
- 2 John 1 The elder to the chosen lady and to her children, whom I love in truthfulness, and not only I but also all those who know the truth,
- John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
4. As a corporate person, the one new man should live a life of reality, as the reality is in Jesus, which is a life of expressing God—Eph. 4:21.
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

5. If we live according to the spirit of our mind, we will have the living of the corporate new man—a living that corresponds to the reality in Jesus—v. 23.
 Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- D. The church life is the daily walk of the corporate one new man, a walk that is absolutely new in nature and in manner; everything related to the one new man is new—vv. 17-32.
- Eph 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,
 Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
 Eph 4:19 Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness.
 Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
 Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
 Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
 Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
 Eph 4:25 Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
 Eph 4:26 Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation,
 Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.
 Eph 4:28 He who steals should steal no more, but rather should labor, working with his own hands in that which is respectable, that he may have something to share with him who has need.
 Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.
 Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.
 Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice.
 Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.
- E. Since the one new man is according to God Himself, with God's life and nature, the one new man must have the life that is divine; such a life will be corporate, not individualistic—v. 24.
 Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.