

“Growing Up”

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

Are you growing up?

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world?

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NLT)

There is a battle inside each of us.

I have discovered this principle of life - that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Romans 7:21-25 (NLT)

God makes people Grow.

When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world?

After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

1 Corinthians 3:4-7 (NLT)

Someone needs to raise the kids.

You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NLT)

Growups go to work.

The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have - Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:8-11 (NLT)

Where are you working for God?

SO WHAT?

How do I grow?

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

John 15:5-8 (NLT)

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What are some of your favorite childhood memories? What were your biggest worries as a child? How has that changed in adulthood?

2. What is one area of your life you would like to grow in right now? What are you doing about it?

3. What has been the single best thing that has helped you to grow spiritually?

4. Read **1 John 2:1-11**. What is the measuring stick for spiritual growth? How can we tell for sure if we are growing, or those around us are growing spiritual?

Are you seeing this growth in your life right now? What can you do about it?

5. Re-read **John 15:5-8**, how can we remain in Christ so we will bear fruit? What spiritual disciplines are required? How are you doing in those disciplines?