

## Growing Up

### Ephesians 4:12-16

We need to ask ourselves “Am I still growing?”, or have we plateaued? Even though life can seem very hard at the moment and we don't have the support and encouragement of being together, this can still be a period that we grow in

Matt was looking at some of the weaknesses that Paul brings out for the immature Christian.

1. They are tossed up and down by the circumstances of life, like a small boat on a choppy sea
2. They are susceptible to being easily influenced, sometimes quite harmfully by those that are 'out for their own ends'.
3. Can leave them quite unstable.

The scripture is clear that we need to train ourselves to discern good from bad. When we are younger this is more difficult and we certainly need others to help us. We need to have a good level of humility, and be ready to take advice . That is why discipling is so important .

We need to study hard, and not just pick and choose our favourite pop-theology. Read the whole Bible. Don't just stick with your pet authors.

James tells us that perseverance through trial matures us. The goal is to make us complete in Christ (James 1:4).

And finally, we need to narrow the gap between what the Bible teaches is right and our everyday outward behaviour. Being part of a local church, going to small group regularly and taking responsibility for each other is one of the best ways to do this. The onus in the New Testament is the whole church maturing together, and lovingly speaking the truth in love to one another.

### Questions

- Talk about things for you that you know are inconsistencies, Do you tend to yoyo in your emotions?
- Are you still growing ? We all have times where we see more growth than at other times, but it's important that even in the tough times, like now, we don't give up!
- What are the things that you find hardest to challenge in others' lives, and why ? Loving one another for the New Testament believer was a lot about not just ignoring the inconsistencies in each other, but genuinely caring enough to speak the truth in love. Do you think this is harder to do in our era than it was for our parent's generation?

- What have you been reading recently to give yourself a deeper knowledge of God?  
What can you recommend to each other?
- Finally pray for each other, to see that person come to a greater level of maturity, that they may be a pillar that others can rely on.