

## Men's Retreat Message

November 19, 2015

*Grow Up and Be a Man*

Texts – 1 Corinthians 16:13 – 18; 1 Corinthians 3:1 – 4; Hebrews 5:11 – 6:1 – 3; 2 Peter 1:1 – 10

### Turn to 1 Corinthians 16:13 - 18

*"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, **quit you like men**, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity. I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth. I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied. For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such."* (1 Corinthians 16:13-18)

### **Introduction**

Illustrate – Did you ever see grown men act like little babies. (Al and Jackie at CBBC) You know how you can tell if a person is a spiritual baby. Take his “banky” away from him. Contrast these babes with Pastor and Mrs. Wedemeyer.

These are the concluding verses to Paul's first recorded letter to the Church at Corinth. As is the case with all of Paul's letters, he usually concludes them with practical thoughts that are intended to challenge and encourage the reader in his Christian walk. Paul uses a unique phrase in v. 13 that he doesn't use in any of his other epistles – “quit you like men”. Interestingly, this phrase of four words was taken from one Greek word (ἀνδρίζομαι - *andrizomai*), which is only used one time in the New Testament and means, “be a man”, or, “act like a man”. He challenges these Corinthians to be men.

What did Paul mean when he said to these Corinthians, “Quit you like men”? Well, I think when we consider what we know about the Corinthian church, we can quickly conclude that they were very immature in their spiritual understanding and in their Christian growth.

In chapter fourteen, Paul is correcting this carnal church because of their abuse of the first century gift of tongues and he admonishes them in verse 20:

*“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.”* (1 Corinthians 14:20)

He told them that they needed to grow up in their understanding of spiritual truth. It was good for them to be childlike or innocent in the area of wickedness and evil, but they needed to be men in spiritual understanding.

Abuse of tongues was not the only problem that this immature church had, they also struggled with idolatry, immorality, abuse of other spiritual gifts, problems with their observance of the Lord's Supper. They also had authority issues. Mature men don't have a problem being under authority. Remember the Centurion who came to Jesus because his servant needed to be healed:

***"For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it."***  
(Matthew 8:9)

They also were spiritually immature in that they elevated men instead of God:

Turn to 1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 9:

*"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."* (1 Corinthians 3:1-9)

The root of all of these carnality problems was the fact that these Corinthians were spiritually immature. They were babes, and Paul stated that they needed to be men.

## **Transition**

My challenge to you men at this first message of the Men's Retreat 2015 is to grow up and be men.

Let's look at another example from the Scripture of spiritual immaturity.

Turn to Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3 [Explain this passage as you read it]

*"Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to*

*be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” (Hebrews 5:10-14)*

*“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.” (Hebrews 6:1-3)*

Peter wrote in his second general epistle that believers needed to add to their faith. They also needed to mature beyond salvation:

Turn to 2 Peter 1:1; 5 – 9

*“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: ... And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” (2 Peter 1:1, 5-9)*

God expects us to grow up. God expects us to be men.

Illustrate – In most churches the women run things. (Cardiff)

It ought not be said about our churches that the women do everything. It ought not be said about your home that your wife is the spiritual leader. You and I need to be men. We need to be spiritually mature, full grown in the Lord and continuously growing.

*“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)*

Our job as pastors and leaders in our churches is to lead people to Christ, and then help them to grow up in the Lord: to become mature Christians.

In order for us to be able to do that we have to be mature ourselves.

Now we all start out as babes, but we are supposed to grow. Being a babe is not a bad thing, if you are a new believer; but you should not stay a baby. You need to grow up.

One of my main concerns as a pastor is that the people of Jersey Shore Baptist Church are growing and maturing spiritually. If we are going to have a mature church, there must be certain ingredients present. What criteria are necessary in order to produce growing, healthy, mature Christians.

## **I Example**

*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 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: 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; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" - (Ephesians 4:11-15)*

*"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." - (1 Timothy 3:6 KJV)*

*"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." - (1 Timothy 5:22 KJV)*

We need to be careful to only elevate those people who are demonstrating Christian maturity. We must not allow babes to be the example for other babes. If you are a leader in your church, make sure that you are the right example yourself. Grow up and be a man. If you are in leadership you cannot afford to act like a spiritual baby in front of the people who are looking to you.

Note – be teachable. Babies are stubborn. If you are going to mature you have to allow others to lead you.

Paul admonished the Corinthians to follow him:

*"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me." (1 Corinthians 4:16)*

*"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)*

*"Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample." (Philippians 3:17)*

I thank the Lord for the godly examples that God has placed in my life. Men who were tough when the going got tough. Men that stuck it out through the difficult days. Men that stayed faithful, when the world around them was falling apart.

Illustrate – Charlie Horton

## II Education

*"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"* (1 Peter 2:2)

The Bible is the nourishment that is required for spiritual growth.

*"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."* (Job 23:12)

*"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."* - (Luke 4:4)

### **Education includes both instruction and exhortation:**

Instruction involves the cold, hard facts. It is the teaching of the doctrines of the Bible.

Exhortation is a little bit different than instruction, though it includes instruction. Exhortation is when we get a little passionate about what we are teaching. It is when we raise the voice a little bit. It is when we shed a tear publically. It is when we strongly emphasize what we are teaching.

**Illustrate – as parents we accomplish more when we strongly exhort (get passionate about something).**

### Examples of Education

- A Discipleship
- B Sunday School
- C All Services
- D Christian School
- E Bible Institute Classes
- F Special Meetings (ie. - the missions conference; revivals, etc.)

Get involved in every opportunity to learn the doctrines of the Bible.

## III Exercise

*"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."* - (Hebrews 5:14)

As a person grows and matures, we need to find them some things to do according to their level of growth. Soul winning is a great place to start.

There are a lot of people out there that know a lot of things, but they are spiritual babies because they do not apply the knowledge.

#### **IV Excitement**

We have got to make what's going on here in the house of God the most exciting thing in the lives of the people of this church. The things of God are exciting.

What are some things that will keep the excitement ?

Revivals, Bible Conferences, Missions Conferences, Back to School Rally, Big Days, Sunday School Campaigns, Ministry Activities, Fellowships, etc.

Seeing people walk the aisles professing faith in Christ.

Seeing people follow the Lord in baptism.

Seeing people complete discipleship training.

Seeing people that go from coming to church sporadically to coming faithfully.

Seeing people grow in the Lord, getting victory over sin and strongholds, begin serving in a ministry and winning souls.

#### **Concluding Illustration**

We need to be men. How are you doing spiritually. How do you handle the setbacks of life? Do you suck your spiritual thumb and sit in the corner with your blanky?

How about doctrine? Have you matured in your understanding of the Word of God?

We all need to grow up and be men.

Illustration - In *The Last Days Newsletter*, Leonard Ravenhill tells about a group of tourists visiting a picturesque village who walked by an old man sitting beside a fence. In a rather patronizing way, one tourist asked, "Were any great men born in this village?" The old man replied, "Nope, only babies."

Someone once said – "You are never too old to grow up".