

Ephesians Chapter 4  
Week 7, v. 14-16

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

We are to come to Christ as children (Mt 18:3-4), but we are not to remain as children.

Children <nepios> a simple-minded person, an immature Christian

Last week we talked about a child's incomplete thinking compared to that of an adult. What are the physical differences between an adult and a child? An adult is considered to be fully-grown and mature which is the opposite of a child who is in the stages of growing and immature.

The use of the word children is not referring to age but rather, to the understanding and knowledge of our faith. We are to be secure in our belief based on the evidence given.

Is it easier to influence someone who is certain and has no doubts or someone who is unsure? Who is more easily deceived?

1Co 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature.

Heb 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes [only] of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

How many of you have toddlers learning to walk? How steady are they on their feet?

Mature Christians will not be tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine.

Tossed to and fro KJV (<kludonizomai> to fluctuate)  
Carried about <periphero> transport hither and thither  
Wind <anemos> wind; (plural) by implication, (the four) quarters (of the earth)  
Doctrine <didaskalie> instruction, learning, teaching

Heb 13:7-9a Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday and today, [yes] and forever. Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings;

In Mt 11:7, Jesus is commending John the Baptist saying he was not “a reed shaken by the wind”. [This is] an emblem of an irresolute, unsteady mind, which believes and speaks one thing today, and another tomorrow...The excellency which Christ notices in John was his steadiness; convinced once of the truth, he continued to believe and assert it...He who changes about from opinion to opinion, and from one sect or party to another, is never to be depended on; there is much reason to believe that such a person...has never been rationally and divinely convinced of the truth. (Adam Clarke's Commentary)

Rick used to work as a ranger in Yosemite National Park. Hang gliders were allowed to jump off Half Dome, El Capitan and Glacier Point. Unfortunately, Rick witnessed many severe accidents because the success of those taking part in this activity was largely dependent on the strongest wind current at the time. The air currents can change quickly – they are fickle and unpredictable.

Do you know people who are constantly jumping from one belief to another dependent on whose argument at the time seems most believable? In what other areas might we see this inconsistency? What happens to these individuals credibility?

We are in the fall season here in the Antelope Valley. What is directly associated with this season? When the wind blows, what happens to those things that are not secure?

Take a minute and ask God to search your heart while pondering these next questions.

How secure are you in your faith? Do you know what you believe? Are you convinced of the Truth? On the other hand, are you of the mindset that every

religious belief is okay? Have you ever heard the words, “whatever works for them” or “as long as they are good and aren’t hurting anyone”? What are some things we can do to become firmly grounded in the doctrines of the gospel?

What does it mean to be discerning?

Discerning: very selective judging; discriminating; to notice something unclear;

We are to be discerning, to recognize false teaching. In order to do this we need to know and understand and commit to studying God’s Word.

1Th 5:21 But examine everything [carefully]; hold fast to that which is good;

1Co 2:15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man.

Do you believe that there are people who use concerted efforts to weaken the body of Christ? Have you seen a weak brother or sister become enticed by the world? How does this happen?

by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Trickery, KJV sleight <kubeia> gambling, i.e. (figuratively) artifice or fraud

Craftiness <panourgia> adroitness, i.e. (in a bad sense) trickery or sophistry:--(cunning) craftiness, subtility.

Deceitful scheming, KJV whereby they lie in wait to deceive

Wait <methodeia> travelling over, i.e. travesty (trickery):--wile, lie in wait

Deceive <plane> objectively, fraudulence; subjectively, a straying from orthodoxy or piety:--deceit, to deceive, delusion, error.

Ro 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

1Ti 6:3-5 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited [and] understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Have you or someone you know ever fallen into a bogus scheme: a get-rich-quick offer or weight loss miracle or cleaning product advertisement or beauty product? What was promised? Why are these schemes out there?

Notice the word trickery actually means gambling. There is nothing certain in gambling. How secure can we be in the truth of the gospel? How secure is your eternal destination?

Isa 45:22 "Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

Eph 1:13-14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of [God's own] possession, to the praise of His glory.

Heb 7:25 Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

As we move on to verse 15, we see a contrast from what we are not to be doing what we should be doing. Instead of acting like children, we should be maturing in our faith, increasing in our understanding of Christ.

Eph 4:15-16 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all [aspects] into Him, who is the head, [even] Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

In order to speak the truth what needs to happen? What happens when we base our opinion on our own thoughts rather than what God's Word says? Albert Barnes Commentary says, "Truth is the representation of things as they are...".

How do we do this "in love"? Look back at verses 2 and 3 of this chapter. Is it possible to speak the truth with the wrong attitude or motivation?

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for [their] body, what use is that?

1Pe 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

1Jo 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

See also 1Cor 13:4-7

According to verse 15, what is the result we are looking for? Refer back to Eph 4:13.

Look again at verse 15. In what areas are we to grow up?

2Pe 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him [be] the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Verse 16 refers once again to Christ being the head of the church and the church being the body with each part working together in unity and maturing in its completeness. The importance of each individual is stressed.

Since Christ is the head of the church and we are to grow up in all aspects of Him, we need to be students of His Word. We need to follow Him. Everything we do is *for* Him and *because* of Him.

As we look again at Eph 4:14-16, what do we learn?

- We are to mature in Christ,
- we are to be grounded in our faith,
- we are to be discretionary of error in teaching,
- we are to work together as a body of believers, each one contributing to the growth of the church unto its completion.

See 1Cor 12:12-27

Application Questions  
Week 7, Eph 4:14-16

**Small group prayer: take 5 minutes and quietly think about the study this morning. What is God saying to you personally? What one area do you need to focus on?**

We focused on growing up in our faith as opposed to remaining like children. The mature believer is secure in their faith. Paul reminds us to speak the truth in love.

**You will have an opportunity in your small group to pray about your personal application following ACTS. Your leader will begin each section with scripture.**

Adoration – “I praise You for...”

Confession – “Forgive me for...”

Thanksgiving – “Thank you for...”

Supplication – “I pray for...”

**If your group is done before 12noon please use the time to quietly work on your memory verses or begin to work on the life application questions below. Visiting time begins at noon.**

---

**This week: Read Ephesians 4 and use the “Apply It” bookmark to guide you in personal application. Pray for the concerns of those in your small group. Work on memorization – Eph 4: 1-7, 12-16 – and pray for growth in the areas God has brought to your attention.**

What steps are you taking to ensure that you are continually maturing in your faith? How are you encouraging the church body to grow in maturity?

Do you have a desire to grow in your knowledge of Christ? Read what Paul says in Philippians 3:9-12.

Do you have doubts about your faith? If so, are you willing to seek help to dispel your doubts so that you can stand firm?

What would you say if you needed to verbalize what you believe to another person? Do you have a plan? If not, have you considered joining Evangelism Explosion?

What can you do to check your motivation when it is necessary to speak the truth in love?

In what other area has God’s Word challenged you through this passage? How can you specifically apply the truths we talked about this morning?