

CouplesInBloom.com – Growing Up

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Jesus, the Apostle Paul, and others ask us direct yet rhetorical questions to incite our own introspection and personal seeking the Holy Spirit for continued spiritual maturing. God is beyond patient with us, knowing we are but dust ⇒ Genesis 3:19; Job 10:9. Yet we were adopted into eternity by Him ⇒ Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 3:11. His needful reminders in Scripture are about learning: ‘Be quiet, humble yourself, and **behold ME.**’

God reiterates this in ⇒ Isaiah 65:1-5 and 52:6, which is the saddest story in history: the Creator (and Love Himself) is so easily minimized by His beloved creatures! Beyond the fact that God’s love is *so* undeserved it could be considered *wrong* by human standards, the very act of treating God this way is certainly worthy of death (again by human standards)... thankfully God gives us incentives and time to repent; ...such love!!

Growing up includes owning **sound doctrine** as mentioned in ⇒ 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, specifically having the common thread of **Biblical theology** over *human thinking*:

* The **Binge**: band-wagon / johnny-one-note / soap-box / social media meme machine / ever seeking / never finding / replaces urgency with haste (doesn’t know the difference) / buzz addict / legalist / isolator of one Biblical aspect (e.g. faith; deliverance; social issues) or just one part of God (e.g. Son but not Holy Spirit) to the neglect of the rest.

* The **Fringe / Tinge**: selfie defined lifestyle / Christian label wearer / hell insurance seeker / undisciplined / pride justified / Bible verse borrower / good talker / bad walker.

* The **Dinge**: Gnostic / dull / doom and gloom / fatalism / uninvolved / uncaring / unkind.

* The **Hinge**: jerking back and forth / unstable / non-committal / cowardly / unreliable.

* The **Singe / Ninja**: critical / ministry of condemnation / argumentative / replaces net with hook (worldly evangelism methodology; not Biblical) / mechanical / non-relational.

Selfishness is, as always, at the root of **not growing up**. Every Christian goes through transitions of becoming more like Jesus: considering others over self. Often openly seen are Christians who *spiritually masturbate*, even in their worship: godly children rise up and call their mother blessed, and godly husbands praise their wives ⇒ Proverbs 31:28, but some of the bride of Christ / Christians just love to sing the spiritual erection song, “*I’m* gonna rise up and call *myself* blessed.” This immaturity *guarantees lack of blessing* in their life because, unlike Jesus, their focus is on *ministering to self* instead of to others.

Growing up is evidenced by generosity in others ways as well, including in tithes and in offerings. To think we trust God with the biggest thing we have (which is our very **life**) yet, at the same time, not even trust Him with obeying the Bible financially is *deception*.

Growing up includes **faithful work at studying Scripture** ⇒ 2 Timothy 2:15. Many Christians live on *spiritual welfare*: where *others work for their Bible knowledge*. They sin without realizing it because their hearts *heard* the truth but do not **own** it ⇒ Psalm 119:11. They are in the Dark Ages: *Biblical famine of outward religiosity* ⇒ Amos 8:11.

Like the Christians in Berea ⇒ Acts 17:10-11, all Christians **grow up** by **seeking God & owning the Scripture for themselves**... beholding **HIM**, finding He is wonderful. ♥