# Grow | August 20, 2023

# **Summary**

The Church helps us to grow in spiritual maturity so we can speak the truth in love to our world.

# Scripture

Words from wise people are like sharp sticks used to guide animals. They are like nails that have been driven in firmly. Altogether they are wise teachings that come from one Shepherd. So be careful, my son, about other teachings. People are always writing books, and too much study will make you tired. -Ecclesiastes 12:11-12 (NCV)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. -Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith. -1 Timothy 6:20-21 (NIV)

### Let's Start

How would you answer the question, "When did you grow up?"

# **Gratitude and Prayer**

How has God worked in your life since the last time we were together?

#### Let's Talk

- 1. According to the sermon, what does the term "maturity" mean in a spiritual context? How is it different from simply getting older?
- 2. In the sermon, Pastor Kyle emphasized the importance of discernment in spiritual maturity, particularly in recognizing deceitful teachings. How can mature believers develop and maintain discernment in a world filled with competing ideas?
- 3. Pastor Kyle mentioned the idea of being in a community or relationship that helps us grow toward maturity. How have you experienced the impact of community on your spiritual growth?
- 4. Pastor Kyle shared three reasons why spiritual maturity matters:
  - Spiritual maturity makes us steadfast in a sea of ideas.
  - Spiritual maturity makes us discerning against deceit.
  - Spiritual maturity makes us loving in a world of lies.

Share examples you have seen of spiritual maturity that illustrate these three points.

- 5. What ways do you think you can "make the most of the church" in your own life? Are there specific steps you can take to continue growing in spiritual maturity and contributing to the growth of Wooddale Church?
- 6. Think about the example of Lauren in the video, who engaged in a study to help lead her children in the truth. How can study and growth opportunities contribute to your spiritual maturity and your ability to impact those around you?

#### Let's Act

As you reflect on this sermon, is there a specific area of your spiritual life that you feel challenged to work on in order to continue growing in maturity? How can you take practical steps to address this area?	
	_
	_
	_