**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS: THE WEALTH AND WALK OF A BELIEVER**

“The Growth of Unity”

As we begin a new year, it is interesting that people have all kinds of New Year’s Resolutions….

1. Diet/Eat Healthier
2. Exercise More
3. Lose Weight
4. Spend less, save more
5. Get more organized
6. Read more
7. Learn a new hobby

*Eph 4:13-16*

*13 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****:*

*14 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;*

*15 But speaking the truth in love, may* ***grow up*** *into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

*16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part,* ***maketh increase of the body*** *unto the* ***edifying*** *of itself in love.*

* **THE PLAN FOR OUR GROWTH(4:13) – CONFORMITY**

***“…unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”***

* God is more interested in my **conformity** than He is in my **comfort**. (Rm. 8:28-29)

*Rom 8:28-29*

*28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

*29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

* God is more concerned with **who** I am than **what** I’m **doing**. (Mt. 15:8)

*Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

* God’s plan for my growth always involves **other** **people**. (Eph. 4:11-16; Pr. 27:17)

*Prov 27:17*

*17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*

Teachers

Disciplers

Counselors

Examples

Encouragers

Difficult people

Enemies

The Lost

* God is going to continue the conforming process until He **comes**, or I **die**. (Phil. 1:6)

*Phil 1:6*

*6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

* **THE PROOF OF OUR GROWTH (4:14-16) –Maturity**
* A mature Christian demonstrates **consistency** in His walk. (4:14a)
* A mature Christian demonstrates spiritual **discernment**. (4:14b)

“Know **WHAT** you believe and **WHY** believe it”

* A mature Christian utilizes an appropriate blend of **truth** and **mercy**. (4:15)

*John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)* ***full of grace and truth****.*

* A mature Christian is heavily involved in **ministry** to **others** and demonstrates a humble spirit of **cooperation**. (4:16)