

EPHESIANS

All Grown Up

Ephesians 4:14-16

The background of the image is a close-up of Spider-Man's red and blue suit, specifically the web pattern. A gold-colored, triangular piece of the suit is visible on the right side.

**WITH GREAT
POWER
COMES GREAT
RESPONSIBILITY**



Luke 12:48b

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.”

The Truth:

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We Have
Been Given
Much!

Last Week:

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- We were given gifts (v. 12):
 - “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ”
- And our ultimate goal (v. 13):
 - “until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”



Warren Wiersbe:

“The Bible was written to be obeyed, and not simply studied, and this is why the words ‘therefore’ and ‘wherefore’ are repeated so often in the second half of Ephesians.”

5 Ways To Be Mature

EPHESIANS

1. Don't Act Like Children

2. Don't Get Carried Away

3. Speak the Truth in Love

4. Grow in Christ

5. Use Our Gifts

1. Don't Act Like Children

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- Children, in this context, are characterized by a child-like gullibility and lack of experiential knowledge.
- Paul employs this spiritual metaphor to refer to spiritually immature believers, starkly contrasting with the “mature man” of v. 13.

Hebrews 5:12-14

EPHESIANS

12 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. **13** For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. **14** But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.



2. Don't Get Carried Away

“Tossed Here and There”

κλυδωνιζόμενοι

(klydōnizomai)

**Used only here in the
New Testament**

Remember James 1:6-8? EPHESIANS

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, **8** being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

“Carried about”

EPHESIANS

περιφερόμενοι (*peripheromenoi*)

“to carry here and there; to be driven in doubt and hesitation; to be led away now to this opinion, now to that”

Why Can This Never
Characterize The
Believer?

Ephesians 1:13-14

EPHESIANS

13 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, **14** 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.

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, **20** where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us

The Waves of Immaturity

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- People are often carried away by:

- A. “every wind of doctrine”

- False Teaching

- B. “the trickery of men”

- False Teachers

- C. “craftiness in deceitful scheming”

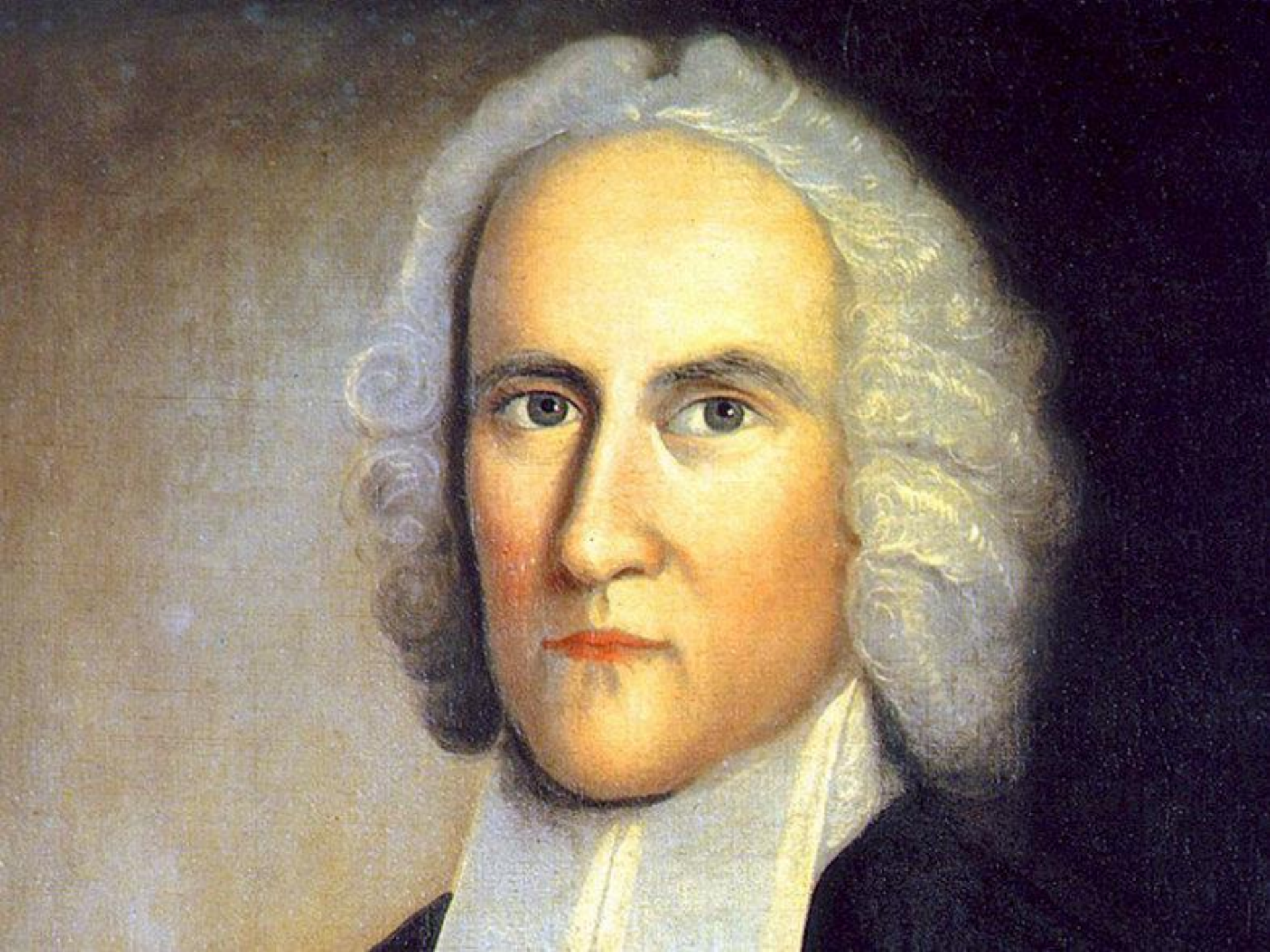
- False Friends



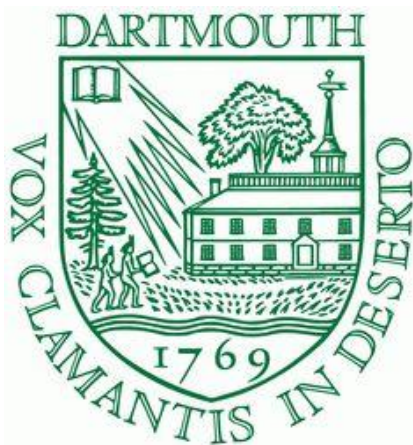
Think about this:

EPHESIANS

- Paul first arrived in Ephesus in about A.D. 53, ministering there for three years (Acts 19).
- He teaches the Ephesian elders at Miletus before returning to Jerusalem in A.D. 57 (Acts 20).
- He writes this epistle in A.D. 61, and he is warning the Ephesian church about false doctrine and false teachers.



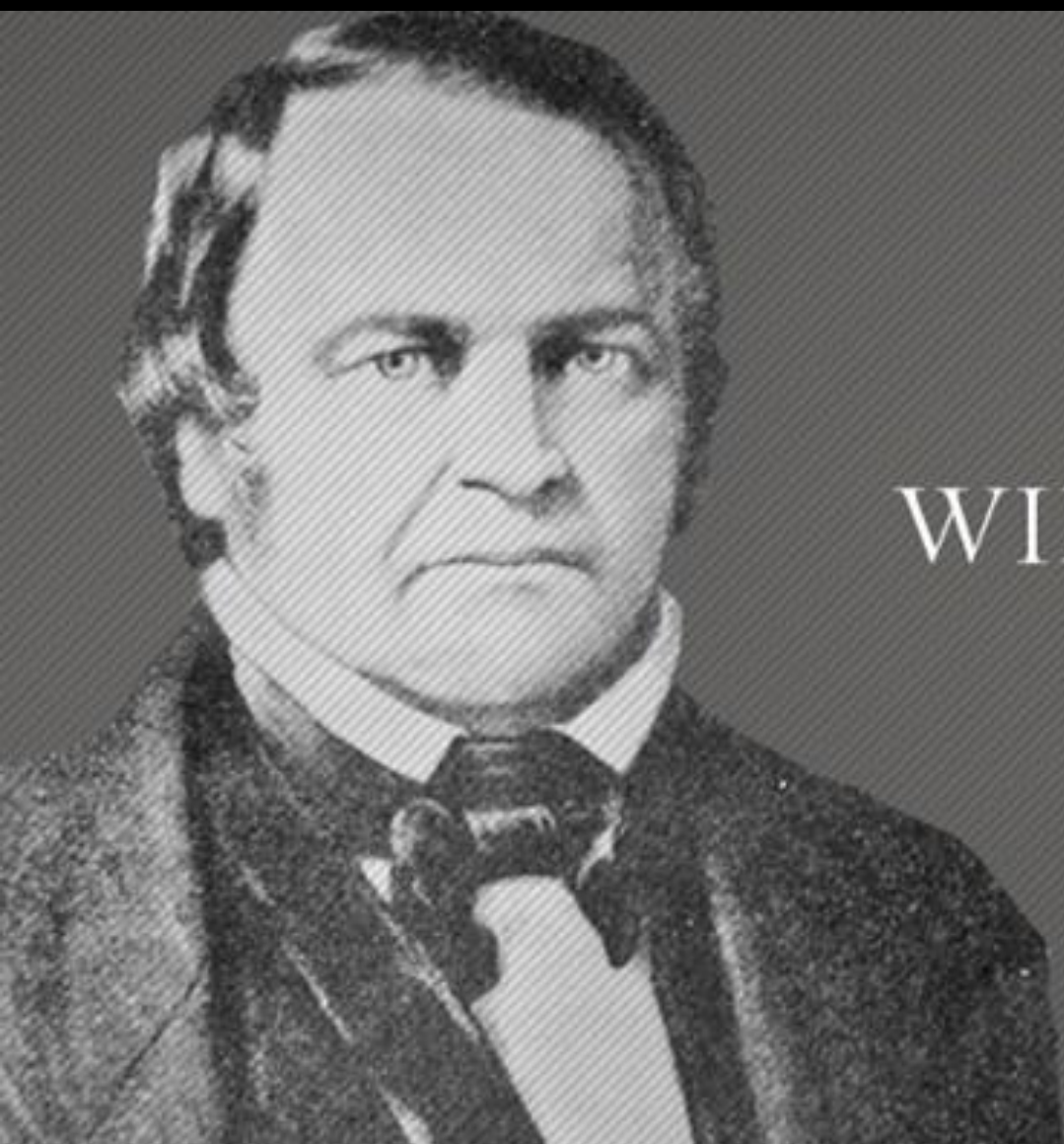




**Universities
Founded on
the Gospel**







WILLIAM MILLER
1782-1849







We Don't Fall For It!

EPHESIANS

Because we “walk...worthy of the calling” (4:1); we are united in “one body...one Spirit...one hope...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father (4:4-6); we experience grace (4:7); we learn under the foundational and functional gifts of the church (4:11); we have been “equipped” for “service” (4:12); we know our Savior; we are growing in maturity, and we seek to be more like our Lord each and every day (4:13).

The Result:

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We, as gifted believers,
sitting under the
teaching of gifted
leaders, should have an
otherworldly stability in
our faith.

Psalm 16:7-8

EPHESIANS

7 I will bless the Lord who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night. **8** I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.



“You’ll Never Walk Alone”



Luke 8:24

They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm.

3. Truth in Love

EPHESIANS

- Literally, “truthing in love”
- One commentator said, “This fundamental concern for the truth is the secret of maturity in the church.”
- The church that stresses both the truth and love will produce spiritually mature, Christ-like believers.

In 2019...

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We Don't Like
Truth Very
Much...

The Truth

EPHESIANS

“The importance of truth cannot be overestimated. All three persons of the Trinity are linked with truth, the gospel is the word of truth, we are to speak and do the truth, and we are to worship in truth.

Worship is telling the truth about God.

Confession is telling the truth about ourselves. Counseling is a process of helping people deal with the truth. In the end we have no other activity but speaking and living the truth in love.”



Consider:

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Speaking the truth in love may require confrontation, which many of us seek to avoid out of concern for our own security.

**But in a fallen world
confrontation is necessary to
love.**

Turn to

EPHESIANS

1 Corinthians 13

God is still speaking,

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



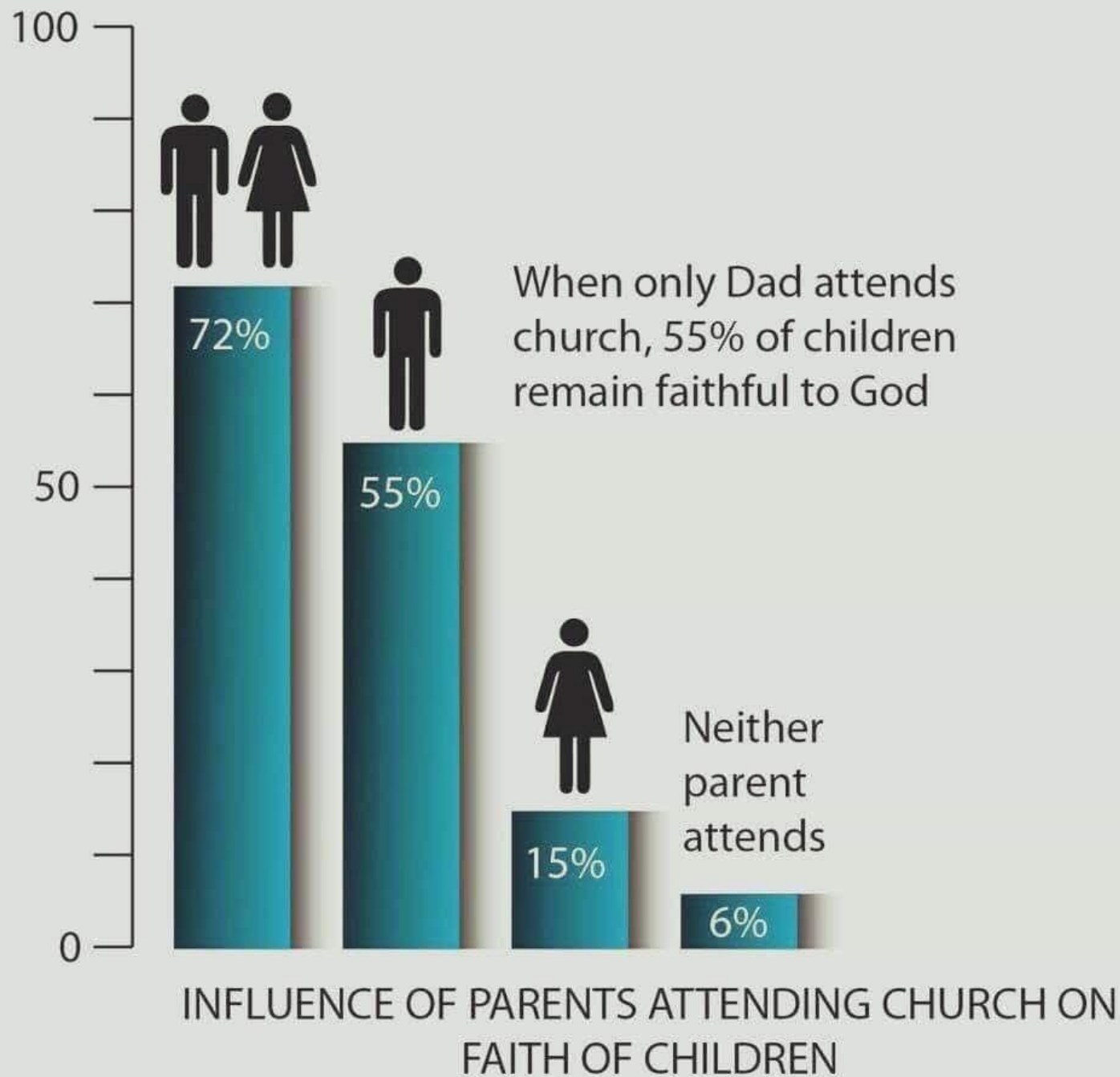
†
CLEVELAND PARK
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL WELCOME
WORSHIP 
SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAY 1030 AM
CPCCHURCH.ORG



A portrait of Bart D. Ehrman, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark jacket over a grey shirt. He is gesturing with his hands while speaking. The background is dark.

Bart D. Ehrman
Professor, University of North Carolina



Robert & Deborah Bruce, "Becoming Spiritual Soulmates With Your Child" 1996

4. Grow in Christ

EPHESIANS

- As we live in the truth and love encountered in Christ (3:19 and 4:21) and express these qualities, we become more closely attached to Christ and more like him.
- **Christians are attached to Christ by faith; as they grow, they are more closely brought into relation with him and into conformity with his character and his will.**

In Other Words:

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When you spend time
with people, you tend to
look and act more like
them.

Who are you spending
your time with?

The Formula

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Truth
+ Love
+ Growth in Christ
Maturity

5. Use Our Gifts

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- Jesus Christ is both the One into whom we grow (v. 15) and the One out of whom we grow as a whole church.
- The whole body grows as each part carries out its proper function.
- All parts of the body alluded to in this verse are Christians, except the Head, Jesus Christ.

Back to Ephesians 2:15-16 EPHESIANS

15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, **16** and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.



Turn to

EPHESIANS

1 Corinthians

12:12-20

Harold Hoehner:

EPHESIANS

“From the Head the body derives its whole capacity for growth and activity. Each member of the body is joined by being carefully fitted together, and each member is held or brought together by means of every supporting ligament according to the standard of the measured working of each individual. This causes the body of Christ to grow and build itself up in love.”

Colossians 1:17-18

EPHESIANS

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18** He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

“measure” 3x (7, 15, 16)EPHESIANS

- When each believer employs his/her gift in accord with the measure of the gifting in grace Christ bestowed, then the church grows properly, coming ultimately to the measure of Christlikeness Paul established in v. 13.
- Stunted growth comes when one does not allow his or others' gifts to function.



This Body of Christ:

EPHESIANS

1. An intimate relation exists between Christ and those who believe in him. They are bound to him and draw from him resources for life.
2. Union with Christ joins people to each other.
3. Each person has responsibility within the body to fulfill his or her calling.
4. The body grows and is built up by the activity of each part and the sustenance that comes from Christ.
5. Everything done in the body is done in the context of love.

Let's Close with

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1 Peter 4:7-11

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