

# Boys → Men

The purpose of the word of God, the church of Christ, and the fellowship of saints is growth in grace and the knowledge of Christ until we are perfect men of God. It is a fact that many Christian men live and die as boys in the sight of God and good men. Age has nothing to do with it. Godliness, wisdom, and perseverance have everything to do with it. Are you growing? Are you a man in the sight of God?

*“And Jesus **increased** in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:52).*

*“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, **quit you like men**, be strong” (I Cor 16:13).*

*“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: **but when I became a man, I put away childish things**” (I Cor 13:11).*

*“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**:*

*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; But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, even Christ” (Eph 4:13-15).*

*“But **grow** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen” (II Pet 3:18).*

*“A wise man will hear, and will **increase learning**; and a man of understanding **shall attain unto wise counsels**” (Prov 1:5).*

*“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be **yet wiser**: teach a just man, and he **will increase in learning**” (Prov 9:9).*

*“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou **mayest be wise in thy latter end**” (Pr 19:20).*

*“For when for the time **ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again** which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: **for he is a babe**. But strong meat belongeth to them that are **of full age**, even those who by reason of use have their **senses exercised to discern both good and evil**” (Heb 5:12-14).*

“And beside this, **giving all diligence, add** to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity” (II Pet 1:5-7).

“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet **more and more** in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God” (Phil 1:9-11).

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would **abound more and more**” (I Thess 4:1).

“Brethren, **be not children** in understanding: howbeit in malice **be ye children**, but in understanding **be men**” (I Cor 14:20).

“He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And **if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down**” (Luke 13:6-9).

“But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and **exercise thyself rather unto godliness**. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (I Tim 4:7-8).

“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby**: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (I Pet 2:1-3).

## What are you at home, at work, and in the church?

<u>Boys</u>		<u>Men</u>
Quarrel and argue over little	I Cor 3:1-3; Prov 19:11	Peacemakers at all times
Bitterness and vengeful	I Cor 14:20; Jas 3:17	Forgiving and merciful
Ignorant of doctrine	Heb 5:12-14; Pro 22:17-21	Able to teach others
Fearful of circumstances	Judges 8:20-21; Prov 28:1	Bold and courageous
Weak memory and forgets	Prov 4:4-6; 7:1-3; I Cor 15:2	Retains and remembers
Unstable and changing	John 8:31; James 1:25	Stable and perseveres
Unfocused and variable	Heb 3:6; 4:14; 10:23	Single minded and constant
Follower	Gen 18:19; Josh 24:15	Leader
Listens to get-rich-quick ideas	Pr 12:11; 13:11; 14:23; 28:19	Words faithfully at his job
Clueless and confused	I Cor 6:1-5; Prov 16:20	Wise and takes charge
Little and weak faith	Matt 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8	Trusting in God at all times

Toys – jobs, money, sports	Phil 3:18-19; Gen 15:1	Spiritual riches are the prize
Ruled by feelings and spirit	Prov 16:32; 25:28	Rules spirit and its feelings
Says what comes to mind	Jas 1:19; Prov 15:2,28	Rules tongue to speak rightly
Envious like King Saul	I Sam 18:6-11; I Sam 26:1-20	Magnanimous like David
Selfish and self-centered	I Cor 3:1-4; Matt 20:26-27	Serving and giving to others
Lets life happen to him	Ps 101:3-8; II Chron 19:3	Takes life by the horns to win
Stays in comfort zone/habits	I Sam 17:29; Acts 2:14	Steps out to do what is right
Vague reputation of godliness	I Sam 18:30; I Tim 3:7	Clear and strong reputation
Nitpicker of others' faults	Prov 19:11; Is 29:20-21	Gloriously overlooks faults
Chafes and resists authority	Jude 1:8-10; II Pet 1:10-12	Honors and obeys authority
Hasty and impulsive in actions	Prov 19:2; II Tim 3:4	Cautious and slow in actions
Chief concern about getting	Phil 2:3-4; Rom 15:1-2	Chief concern about giving
Foolish and jesting in manners	Eph 5:3-5; Titus 2:6	Sober and grave in manners
Undisciplined and extreme	I Cor 9:24-27; Phil 4:5	Temperate and moderate
Vulnerable to new ideas	Eph 4:14; Titus 1:9; Heb 13:9	Holds fast to truth learned
Much better at talking	Jas 1:19; Prov 17:27-28	Much better at listening
Generates children like a dog	Ps 34:11; Prov 4:3-4; Eph 6:4	Trains his children to fear God
Moody like a spoiled child	Prov 18:14; I Thess 5:16	Consistent like a mature man
Discouraged by adversity	Prov 24:10; II Cor 4:8-9	Unmoved by adversity
Needs handholding	I Thess 5:14; Job 4:1-5	Holds the hands of others
Short-term perspective	Heb 11:8-16; Pr 23:17-18	Long-term perspective
Physically oriented	Ps 147:10-11; Pr 20:29	Spiritual character oriented
Values lust over love	II Sam 13:1; Pr 7:18; I Pet 3:7	Values love over lust
Spends all of his money	Prov 13:22; 21:17,20	Saves some of his money
Sees no danger in friends	Prov 13:20; I Kings 11:3-4	Knows the danger of friends
Lazy and low ambition	Prov 6:6-11; 23:19-21	Diligent and high ambition
Sits in church like zombie	John 2:17; I Chron 29:2	Makes the church glorious
Childishly talks about himself	Prov 11:30; Daniel 12:3	Pursues others for their growth
Waste time for fun	Eph 5:16; Jas 4:14; Ps 90:12	Redeem time for use

**There are several keys for a man to grow to maturity and perfection.**

1. You must feed on the word of God with emphasis on looking in the perfect law of liberty, seeing your deficiencies, and correcting them by obedience to it (I Pet 2:1-3; Jas 1:21-25).
2. Beg God to reveal to you your faults and offences in thought, word, or deed, and lead you in the way of righteousness by the power of His Spirit (Job 34:31-32; Ps 26:1-5; 139:23-24).
3. Participate fully in the church by interacting with all the brothers and sisters in a godly fashion for the strength in numbers and the correction of others (Heb 3:12-13; 10:23-25).
4. Fellowship with the saints on a frequent basis outside assemblies to reach higher toward spiritual maturity and righteous perfection (I Sam 23:16; Prov 27:17; Phil 3:17; I Thes 5:14).

5. Avoid and despise the ways of this world in personal companionship or their forms of entertainment, where they can corrupt your manners (Ps 1:1-3; Prov 1:10; I Cor 15:33).
6. Growth is the result of your effort, not the result of what the church, pastor, or others do for you. You cannot blame anyone else for your spiritual immaturity. Grow up! Begin today!