

Growth

& SIN

2 PETER 1:10-11

The Nature of Growth

The New Birth is the Beginning

- **2 Corinthians 5:9, 14-15, 17, 20-21; 6:1-2** – all things are new, but this is shown by continual separation from the old.
- **1 Corinthians 3:1-4** – infancy in Christ is a newness which aims at further change from the old.

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The Perfect Man is the Goal

- Colossians 1:28-29 – perfect in Christ. (“*mature*,” ESV)
(cf. Galatians 4:19-20)
- Ephesians 4:13-15 – maturity in relation to the measure of Christ. (cf. Colossians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)
- Perfection/maturity manifested in love
– Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-7

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The Nature of Growth

Progressing, Not Regressing

- Implications of growth – **Hebrews 5:12-14**
 - Growth implies a deficiency in the *past* when compared with the *present*.
 - Growth implies a deficiency in the *present* when compared with the *future*.
- Paul's Perfect "Rule" – **Philippians 3:12-16**

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Putting the Old Man to Death

The newness of life is also in relation to the separation in death from sin, and a continued recognition of such –

Romans 6:1-4, 11, 13

We Have Put to Death, and Must Continue to Put to Death the Old Man

- What we have done – **Galatians 5:24**
- What we continually do – **Romans 8:13**
- What we have done, and continue to do – **Colossians 3:1-5**

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Putting the Old Man to Death

Present sinful activity due to ignorance and/or immaturity does not excuse sin or negate its effect – death. The need for growth is not to be mistaken as tolerance for present sin.

- Must be diligent to know God's will – **Ephesians 5:8, 10**
- Must be diligent in teaching
 - **2 Timothy 4:2**
- Must be willing to yield to the truth
 - **Galatians 6:1-2, 6-8**

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God's Saving Grace for the Christian

The Epistle of 2 Peter

- **The Nature of the Everlasting Kingdom** – 1:11; 3:13 – desirable, where righteousness dwells.
- **The Nature of the Lord's Coming** – 3:7, 10-14 – judgment, salvation, unknown time.

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God's Saving Grace for the Christian

The Epistle of 2 Peter

- **The Nature of Our Preparation of That Day**
 - Warning against false teachers – 3:17-18; deny 2nd coming (3:3-4); encourage lax morality (2:18-19)
 - Diligence in growth promotes blamelessness – 1:5-11; 3:18
 - The longsuffering of the Lord gives us time to grow and be ready – 3:8-18

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