

The Goal of Ministry II: No Longer Children (Ephesians 4:14)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Fads
 - B. Review of the context
 - C. Main point: **The first of three *visible* marks of a mature church?**
 - D. Outline of the sermon

- II. **How is it that Christians are children?**
 - A. Christian life begins with birth
 - B. Two ways we are to be children
 1. Matt 18:3 – in our conversion
 - a. We are born as infants meant to grow
 - b. Earthly success does not matter (1 Cor 2:14, 1 Cor 1:26-27)
 2. I Cor 14:20 – innocence in evil, not in understanding
 3. the ‘just give me Jesus’ sentiment is sinful!
 4. The NT emphasis on doctrine
 - a. 1 Tim 4:13-16
 - b. 2 Tim 3:1-4:4
 5. People gave their lives for doctrine
 6. Will you grow up in your understanding (Heb 5:12-14)

- III. **What are the characteristics of children?**
 - A. Physical children
 1. unstable, fickle
 2. impulsive, no moderation
 3. easily deceived due to inexperience
 4. no long term vision; taken by novelty
 - B. Spiritual children
 1. unstable (tossed to and fro)
 2. no moderation (led by passions)
 3. no settled convictions
 4. easy prey to false teaching
 - a. Paul’s concern for Galatians (Gal 1:6-8)
 - b. Paul’s concern for Romans (Rom 16:17)
 5. captivated by the temporal (prosperity, asceticism, moralism)
 - C. Satan’s systemized plan to shipwreck your faith with false teaching

- IV. **Application: How can we be *no longer children*?**
 - A. Pick up and read the Bible in 2011
 - B. Grow together as a church into *one new man*
 - C. God gives Word ministers to his church (the importance of teaching)
 - D. Are you called to teach? (Heb 5:12)
 - E. Will you take a stand for truth?