



International Baptist Church Eindhoven

Your Christian Family Away From Home

CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

#6 spiritual growth and discipleship

Speaker: Auke Rienstra

We want to be a 'physically'
and spiritually healthy and
mature church



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So far:

- Gospel centered
- Biblical theology and expository preaching
- Being a spiritual family
- Biblical leadership
- Importance of membership



Today #6: spiritual growth and discipleship

(Matt. 28:19-20)



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A healthy church is growing spiritually but a growing church (in numbers or activities) is not always healthy



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Growth is a sign of life!
(if a baby is not growing the
parents should worry!)



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WE MUST GROW SPIRITUALLY!

Growth in faith

- 2 Cor. 10:15
- 2 Thess. 1:3

Growth in knowledge

- Col. 1:10

Grow up into Him to maturity

- Eph. 4:15

Feed on the Word to 'grow up'

- 1 Pet. 2:2



HEBREWS 5:11-14

11About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.



HEBREWS 5:11-14

From milk to solid food

From being taught to becoming teachers

From being a child to maturity

Distinguishing good from evil



NOT BEING ROOTED IN GODS WORD RESULTS IN:

Christianity Today, Sep. 19, 2022. State of Theology report.

26% of Evangelicals believe that scripture is not literally true (rejection of divine authorship of Bible)

38% of Evangelicals believe that religious beliefs are 'a matter of personal opinion' not about 'objective truth' (rejecting authority and inerrancy of Bible)

56% of Evangelicals believe 'Jesus isn't the only way' (this is universalism)

73% of Evangelicals believe that 'Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God' (rejecting Jesus divinity (Arianism))

57% of Evangelicals believe that 'everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature (denial of original sin (Pelagianism))



SPIRITUAL GROWTH: THREE SCENARIO'S

1. You are growing 😊
2. You are stagnant but it's not
chronical yet
3. You are stagnant and it's chronical



MEASURING SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

By knowledge of the scriptures?

By level of enthusiasm?

By level of commitment?

By level of spiritual language?

... these *might be* signs of spiritual growth but not necessarily...

They can come out of religion or a born again heart.



A STRIKING STORY

LUKE 18:9-14

The religious Pharisee makes at least three mistakes:

1. He trusts in his own achievements
2. He used the wrong measuring tool
3. He trusted in his own strength



WE FULLY DEPEND ON GOD!

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. – 2 Cor. 3:17-18



THE KIND OF GROWTH WE ARE LOOKING FOR

True holiness
Humbleness



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a healthy Church is an
environment where people
can grow spiritually!



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