

Five Attitudes of Growth

2 Peter 3:18

*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.*

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous:

Introduction: A few years ago, I went by one of the houses I lived in as a boy in Hahira, GA. I relived several experiences I had in that house. I recalled the marks used to measure my height. I have often thought it would be good to have a definite way of measuring Christian growth. I do not know of any sure way of doing that where all would agree. Here we have five attitudes that represent growth. Look at them with me, and let's try to measure if we are growing.

1 Growing Shows In My . . . Attitude of Harmony. v 8 a

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous:

A Growing Attitude of Harmony. (KJV " of one mind") (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words), "like-minded" ... AGREE

Illustration

The Choir sings the same song. The individual members sing different parts but they blend in harmony. The bass doesn't sound like the soprano but together in the choir they can sound beautifully.

Illustration

A man was visiting an insane asylum one day, and he noticed that all the insane people were on the field outside, but there was only one guard. He asked the guard, "Aren't you afraid?" The guard said, "Absolutely not." He said, "Don't you believe that since you are the only one here, these people could over-run you and break out of the asylum?" He said, "That's impossible." The man asked, "Why is that impossible?" The guard replied, "**Because lunatics don't unite.**"

Illustration Poem

To dwell above with saints we love, That will be grace and glory.
To live below with saints we know; That's another story!

2 Growing Shows In My . . . Attitude of Sympathy. v 8 b

A. A Growing Attitude of Sympathy. (KJV Compassion)

1. This word means to feel with. To have compassion.

Illustration

In one of my pastorates a little 6-year-old boy was accidentally blinded. He got to where he could handle this but his mother really had a problem with it. If someone said I understand how you feel, and she would angrily say no you don't. You don't have a child who is blind.

2. The example of Jesus. John 11:35 Jesus wept.
 - a. Why did Jesus weep?
 - b. He knew He would raise Lazarus.
 - c. He wept because of his sympathy with the people.
3. The teachings of Paul. Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, ...

Illustration

Our bodies work in harmony. If you hit a finger with a hammer every part of your body sympathizes with the finger.

3 Growing Shows In My . . . Attitude of Brotherly Love. v 8 c

A. A Growing Attitude of Brotherly love (KJV love as brothers)

1. In the epistle of 1 John their are check points about personal salvation. One of them is love for Christians.
2. We may have different convictions, and desires but we should never the less love one another.

4 Growing Shows In My . . Attitude of Kindness. v 8 d

A Growing Attitude of Kind-heartedness. (KJV pityful)

We get the word **spleen** from that word. You see the Greeks always felt that a man's emotions were down in his bowels, down in his stomach.

- a. Where does nervousness attack the body? In the stomach.
- b. Sad when little children have stomach problems because of domestic turmoil.
- c. Sometimes we say my problem is not what I am eating but what is eating me.

5 Growing Shows In My . . Attitude of Humbleness. v 8 a

A Growing Attitude of Humbleness. (KJV Be courteous)

1. This quality is one the Lord requires for revival to take place. 2 Chr 7:14
2. But how do you know if you are humble?
3. My experience has been that the Lord brought the attitude of humbleness, or the desire for it.

Illustration

I heard about a man who was awarded a humility button from his church and then they took it away from him because he wore it.

Conclusion:

- 1 Growing Shows In My . . Attitude of Harmony.**
- 2 Growing Shows In My . . Attitude of Sympathy.**
- 3 Growing Shows In My . . Attitude of Brotherly Love.**
- 4 Growing Shows In My . . Attitude of Kindness.**
- 5 Growing Shows In My . . Attitude of Humbleness.**