

Failure To Launch!  
Hebrews 5:12-14  
Get Educated!

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.  
NKJV

In the first century church there were many disciples in the church that were not growing up in their faith. They had been in the church for a significant amount of time but they were still immature in their faith. By the time this letter was written, they had been in the church long enough so that they should have grown up to be teachers sharing with others the truths that they had learned. But instead they were immature and they still needed someone to teach them the basic doctrines about Jesus and that Jesus taught others.

As a result, they were not personally participating in the great commission that Jesus gave His followers.

The apostle calls them babes in verse 13!

What are the characteristics of a baby?

- They covet the things of this world
- They struggle with self-doubt
- They are self-centered
- They are uneducated(ignorant)

These things that characterize a baby also characterized these babes in the church. In order to mature these babes in the church needed to face these problems and overcome them.

This morning we are going to examine the 4<sup>th</sup> characteristic of a babe in Christ-babes are uneducated. We are going to discover why these babes in the church were uneducated about Jesus and His teachings even though they had been in the church for a significant period of time.

These babes in Christ had the best teachers. They did not have the New Testament yet but they were taught by the apostles of Jesus and the elders that the apostles had appointed. One example that demonstrates they had the best instruction is this letter from an Apostle.

These babes in Christ were not uneducated because they lacked good instruction. They were uneducated for the following reasons.

1. They were uneducated babes in Christ because they were not studying what they were being taught.

They were not taking what they were hearing about Jesus and His teachings and studying what they learned until they had it.

The apostle Paul mentored a young man name Timothy. He then appointed Timothy to be the apostle to the church at Ephesus. After he sent Timothy to do this work, he wrote him 2 letters.

Paul said to Timothy in one of those letters...

2 Tim 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

KJV

Why were these babes in Christ negligent about studying?

Hebrews 6:11-12

11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

NKJV

- Diligence comes from the Greek word spoude (spoo-day'); "speed", i.e. (by implication) despatch, eagerness, earnestness:

It is also translated business, (earnest) care (-fulness), forwardness, haste. The English word study also comes from this Greek Word.

- Sluggish comes from the Greek word nothros (no-thros'); sluggish, i.e. (literally) lazy, or (figuratively) stupid:

It is also translated dull or slothful.

These disciples in the church had the same problem that many students have in any school. They did not have a sense of urgency that motivated them to study. Therefore, they were not diligent about studying what they were being taught. They were lazy.

The apostle tried to motivate them to have a sense of urgency. In Heb. 5:12 he told them they were under achieving. In Heb. 6:4-8 he told them they were in danger of dropping out. In Heb. 6:9 he told them he believed in them. (Sounds like a typical teacher that is concerned about their students.)

They had no one to blame but themselves. They were uneducated babes in Christ because they were not diligently studying what they were being taught.

2. They were uneducated babes in Christ because they did not pursue a personal relationship with those who could help them mature.

Jesus chose to educate 12 of His disciples by forming a small group and personally sharing life with them. Yes, there were some lectures. We can read the longest recorded lecture in Matthew 5-7 in about 15 minutes.

But the primary way His disciples learned from Jesus was by being personally involved with Him. They were with Him as they shared meals together and discussed life together. They were with Him when they went through trials. They were with Him when He ministered to their fellow disciples. They were with Him when He ministered to the lost.

Every professional educator would agree that this is the most effective way to educate.



It is just not possible for educators to use this approach with very many students due to the large number of students that they are responsible to educate.

The early church was structured so that the primary method of education that Jesus used was available to every member of the church. If a member of the church wanted it, it was available.

But many remained babes in Christ because they did not pursue what was available to them. They did not pursue a personal relationship with those who could help them mature.

### 3. They were uneducated because they did not use what they learned.

In order to internalize what they learned and for it to become a part of them, they had to use what they had been taught.

Hebrews 5:13-14

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NKJV

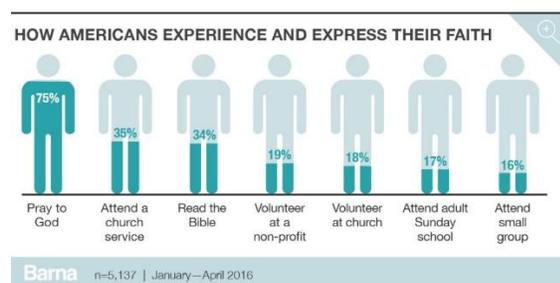
If they would have used the teachings of Jesus, the more it would have become a part of them. They would have trained their senses so that what you had learned become a part of their character.

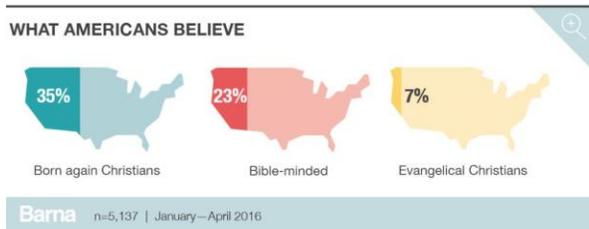
They remained babes in Christ because they did not use what they were taught.

These disciples remained babes in Christ because they were uneducated. They were uneducated because....

- They were not studying what they were being taught.
- They did not pursue a personal relationship and share life with those who could help them learn.
- They were not using what they learned.

George Barna is a social statistician who surveys Americans to understand trends in religion. On September 15, 2016, he published his latest findings. Here are a few of the findings that I found interesting.





Approximately 7% of Americans are evangelical Christians. Only 7% believe that it is their personal responsibility to share their faith with others and disciple others. Only 7% of the 35% that attend church services believe that it is their responsibility to teach others.

We are experiencing the same problem in the church that existed in the early church but our problem is even worse. The church is primarily composed of babes in Christ!

With so few teachers in the church, is it any wonder that the church is not winning more people to Jesus and that the majority of Americans no longer cherish those values that are so important to God and to so many of us?

If you profess Christ as your savior, I want to urge you to make it your ambition grow up in Christ and become a teacher. Make it your ambition to know Christ and make Him known.

The word disciple means learner or student.

You can be a disciple of Jesus in name only and not be a disciple by definition.

There are no shortcuts to becoming a mature disciple of Jesus. It will not happen by osmosis. It will not happen by having a bible on your coffee table. It will not happen by just attending classes.

You must develop the discipline of studying the teachings of Jesus?  
 You must share life with others who can help you grow in Christ?  
 You must start using what you are learning?

Will you make it your chief ambition to mature in Christ and teach others?

Why should you become a disciple of Jesus? (Share gospel and give invitation).