

MABC

“GROW INTO YOUR CLOTHES”

Based on I Peter 2:2-3

INTRODUCTION

The Franson twins

- Born 4.5 lbs
- Now healthy babies who are adored and loved by their family
- Picture of them, one baby is sucking on the hand of his brother

I – HUNGER/CRAVING

Every notice how all babies are born ‘hungry’

- Human babies
- Kittens
- Puppies
- Calves
- Pigs
- Etc.

There is a hunger for food...especially, mother's milk

Another word for hunger is CRAVING. The word ‘craving’ means...an intense desire for some particular thing. So in the case of babies you might say that they are born with an UNRESTRAINED, INTENSE DESIRE FOR food.

II – CRAVING SPIRITUAL MILK

Notice in the text from I Peter that we just read that the writer uses this same image of a hungry baby.

In the first part v.2a we read, “Like newborn babies, CRAVE pure spiritual milk...”

I want you to notice a few things about this simple text.

- It's a COMMAND!
- It's STRONG...remember, 'crave' means an unrestrained or intense desire for!!
- It points to something PURE... 'spiritual milk'

So what is this 'spiritual milk' that we are to CRAVE?

- God's written word?
- God's spiritual food...gift of the Holy Spirit...power
- Perhaps...The Word! Maybe it means we need to be CRAVING Christ... to be like him ...to be one with him!
- We'll come back to this in a few moments!

II – GROWING INTO YOUR CLOTHES

And what is the purpose of this craving for spiritual milk?

According to the text, in v.2b, the end result of craving spiritual milk is to be able to 'grow up' into one's salvation.

Remember how I mentioned babies a few minutes ago? Well...picture how babies look when they are dressed for the first time! They're clothes are always TOO big for them; no matter what size the tag says. Those first

clothes that most babies wear are always loose fitting and somewhat comical. Tiny hands get lost in sleeves. Tiny feet get tangled up in pants. Tiny heads get swallowed up in hats.

Babies have to 'grow up' into their clothes. And, usually, when they do, you can't stop them from growing! It seems like they outgrow them faster than you can buy them! Once babies start feasting on milk, they grow at an amazing rate.

Imagine if we, as Christians, were like that: if we craved 'spiritual milk' like babies crave earthly milk!

- * Our churches would be packed...
- * Our Bible study groups would be overflowing...
- * Our families would be healthy and whole...

* There would be hope for our communities to be healed and our world to be peaceful.

When we come to Christ, our salvation is once and for all; it's secure! BUT...that doesn't mean we're ready to WEAR our salvation in all of its dimensions. Our salvation is huge! Its power and strength and joy are greater than we can imagine when we first experience it! So we have to 'GROW UP' into it. And in order to do that we must CRAVE spiritual food; that is God's written word, God's Holy Spirit... God's Living Word, Jesus Christ!

One of the things we do at the church I serve in Michigan is to honor our teachers every year. This reminds everyone of the importance of the ongoing need to continue to grow as a Christian and as a way to say thank you to those who teach. Our teachers are dedicated and hard-working and care about their students. They do a great job and provide the rest of us with opportunities to be fed and grow up on spiritual food.

BUT...I'll bet, if you spoke to any of them, they'd tell you that they feel like they get more out of teaching the material than they believe you get from them teaching it. And that's because, in order to teach spiritual truths and insights to others, you have to first have a craving for it yourself! And that CRAVING leads to growing and the growing leads to more CRAVING and so on and so on until you 'GROW UP INTO YOUR SALVATION.' And that craving and growing won't stop until you draw your last breath.

CONCLUSION

Remember when I mentioned that perhaps craving spiritual milk meant CRAVING CHRIST, himself? Look at v.3 of this passage.

"...now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

The writer is recalling a phrase from Psalm 34. Psalm 34:8 reads like this:

"Taste and see that the Lord is Good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

The point is...that you won't have an intense desire for spiritual milk, you won't CRAVE to feast on the Word, you won't be hungry to be like Christ and you certainly won't grow up into salvation...if you haven't tasted him.

My kitchen wall and Psalm 34:8.

Reminds me that there is no food more satisfying than the food from God through life in Jesus Christ.