



The Church as Family Series: Part 4: Growing Pains, Numbers 13:30 Mike Halpin ~ March 8, 2015

Intro: Creatures of comfort and the pains of growing....

Week 4 of *The Church as Family* series—“growing pains”.

- ◇ leaving the familiar
- ◇ embracing changes in our Church family because God intends to grow His family
- ◇ discomforts of leaving the known in order to embrace new ways and new people in God's plans and kingdom

Israel's challenges to growth—

Genesis 15: "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions... 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying,

"To your descendants I have given this land,
From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite 20 and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim 21 and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite."

Exodus 3: 8 So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

Numbers 13:13 Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, 2 "Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, everyone a leader among them." ... 4 These then were their names.....6 from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; 8 from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun....

21 So they went up and spied out the land....

25 When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days.... they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 Thus they told him, and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan."

30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it."

II. An Adequate Vision— *How We Got to Where We Are*

If we lack a vision adequate to endure growing pains, we'll faint in the work.

- ◇ Topeka Bible Church
 - ◇ Fellowship Bible Church, 1996
 - ◇ Lion & Lamb Church, 1997
- Homes and Karate Center
CPLS Theater
CPLS Gym
- Worship styles
- Ministry Safe

III. Our Own Walls, Giants and Obstacles—

Moving to Lion & Lamb West—

Potential Benefits:

The possibility of Church membership

Potential Benefits:

Amendments to our Statement of Belief:

Potential Benefits:

Romans 15:5 May the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 3b I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Close: How are we responding to the growing pains in our own lives and in the life of the Church?

We aim BOTH for:

- ◇ appropriate contentment in our present relationships
- ◇ appropriate motivation to see more people brought into our happy circle.

We remain under the mandate of Matthew 28:18 - 20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it. Numbers 13:30