

“The Four Age Groups – The Nepios In The Church.”

We will first look at **Galatians 4:1-9**. **“Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child (nepios), differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors (guardian or steward) and governors (an overseer) until the time appointed of the father (spiritual pater). Even so we, when we were children (nepios’), were in bondage under the elements (orderly fashion of the flesh) of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”** Now take notice that Paul is calling the nepios (child) both a servant, and an heir, and he is under stewards, or teachers until the pater (apostle) sees that the nepios is ready to advance to the next level, or age group, i.e., the pastor/evangelist. If you look up the word **“child”** in the Greek it means: **nepios – not speaking, an infant or minor, a simple minded person, an immature Christian, or babe in Christ, someone that is still in the womb.** A nepios has no knowledge, or acquaintance, nor any understanding of the WORD. This means that the nepios, even though he is lord over everything that is in his/her life, he/she has not learned that it is not theirs, does not know, or understand how the WORD operates, nor understands the authority of the WORD, and does not know how to utilize it, (walk it out) in their lives. Look now at **Psalms 51:7-13**. **“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”** Before you can break forth of the spiritual womb, and come forth born of the spirit, you must first **“break the water”** of the womb. This means

that before your spirit can be saved, you must have given up the dead works (Repentance from the Dead Works of the flesh), learned, and come to Faith towards God, Baptized into Repentance, and be born of the Baptism of Water (“**breaking the water**” of the womb). Water is spiritual teaching. This is only the first stages of spiritual growth, which we will get more in depth into in the next letters. It is very unfortunate, that this type of person or this age group is standing behind the pulpits teaching the same age groups that they can have it all “**here and now.**” This is totally in rebellion to the WORD. Look now at **Matthew 13:10-15**. “**And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.**” Take notice that Christ said, “**their eyes they have closed.**” A nepios does not, and will not perceive, nor understand the will of God, which is why they seek after the things of “this world,” which are the lusts of the flesh (**or elements of the world**), and not the things of the Spirit. You have to be converted to the paidion age group before you will “begin” to understand the will of God. Just as a new-born cannot go out and drive “Daddy’s” car, God will not give the nepios control over His authority, or Kingdom Rule. You have to advance or grow into His authority or His inheritance before you are accounted worthy in His eyes to utilize His authority, or perceive (understand) His WORD. Look now at **John 3:1-13**. “**There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's**

womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.” The only way I can explain this to all that read this, is if I equate this with today’s society. Picture this in today’s churches if you will. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, or today’s “word of faith” minister, is coming to Christ in the cover of darkness, (or in secret) asking Him questions about the twelve foundational stones (which are the laws of faith). What’s the reason? So he can go and teach his followers another “mans” opinion, or ideology, so he can go and teach it to his followers. What did Christ say? “Except a man be born again (breaking the water of the womb, or coming out from under mans ideology), he cannot see the kingdom of God.” What did He say? You cannot see the Kingdom. He said nothing about entering it He said “see it.” The same word “see” means to perceive, or understand. He never said once your born-again you enter it, He said see it, or understand it. In verse 13, He explained how to come out from under “mans” ideology. He said, “no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.” In order to grow past the nepios stage, or age group, you must give up the “rapture theory.” The word harpazo in the Greek is the Baptism into the Cloud, which has nothing to do with being taken up in the air, or being caught up to heaven. It means a spiritual promotion, or the entering into God’s presence, or the manifestation of His light in us. Christ Himself said, “No man has ascended into heaven, except Christ Himself.” The word heaven means “God’s abode, or residence.” It is where He resides. That’s why He said “The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.” Look now at Hebrews 5:11-14. “Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be

teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe (nepios). But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age (huios), even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” In verse 13, the word “babe” is translated nepios. Paul is saying, as long as you remain a nepios, you will for all eternity be sucking on only the milk, or the lusts of the flesh, because you cannot handle the WORD, or be sustained with the meat of the WORD, because you would choke on it, and die, both physically, and spiritually. That’s why God said, “My people perish (die) from lack of knowledge.” The meat, or the WORD will not benefit a nepios. I have heard a lot of ministers preach that they received all of their riches from God. It’s their god, and not The GOD. Because God said that His people seek to help the poor. If your rich, you’re not helping the poor. That’s why the nepios will always fall back under “mans” rule, and not come totally under Christ’s Rule, or His Kingdom Rule. A nepios cannot receive correction while he is still in the womb, or he would be “aborted.” This is why they still serve “mammon.” Look now at **Romans 9:6-13**. “Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” When Paul said “...children (teknons) of the flesh...” he means, that instead of spiritually maturing in the spirit, they grew up under mans ideologies, and gave up their rights to be partakers of the Kingdom of God, and joint heirs with Christ. Because instead of fulfilling the will of God, then receiving the promise, they want to satisfy their own will (lusts of the flesh), and get the promise here, and now. This is the mentality of the nepios. “I want my toy’s now, and right now, and I’ll complain to Mommy and Daddy until I get my own way.” Look now at **1 Corinthians 13:8-13**. “Charity (love) never faileth: but whether

there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child (nepios), I spake as a child (nepios), I understood (see, or perceive) as a child (nepios), I thought as a child (nepios): but when I became a man (huios), I put away childish (nepios) things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” Paul is describing the nepios mentality: as a nepios, we only know, or perceive in part, or by partiality (“I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.” **1 Timothy 5:21**), but when we do away with the nepios age, we no longer see the flesh, or carnality of ourselves, or the guy next to us, but we can see clearly, and not through a dark glass (or the flesh eyes being darkened – “Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.” **Romans 11:10**), but we see the guy next to us in perfect love, as the Father sees him. Look now at **Galatians 4:19-20**. “My little children (teknions), of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.” Paul is talking to his spiritual children who he had to totally retrain because after he had left them, they went right back into the elements (the world’s system – Roman Empire) of the world, and became partakers of the lusts of the flesh again. So he had to start all over, and retrain them. This is what we have in society today. The people hear the WORD, and receive it gladly for a time, but when they receive persecution because of the Words sake, they fall right back into the flesh again. These are the people that the WORD fell among the way side that Christ was talking about. We will get more into this subject in the next message: “**The Four Age Groups – The Paidion In The Church.**” May God bless, and keep everyone of you.

Zion East Gate Church (AIT)

zioneastgate@hotmail.com

or

zioneastgate@yahoo.com