

SERMON NOTES

National Presbyterian Church
David Renwick, February 2, 2014

Series: The Great Ends of the Church: Time to Grow Up?

Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 2:1-5

GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

1. The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind
2. **The Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God**
3. The Maintenance of Divine Worship
4. The Preservation of the Truth
5. The Promotion of Social Righteousness
6. and the Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World.

Nurture: *“caring for and encouraging
the growth or development of someone or something.”*

1. We are all children – “Children of God”
2. All healthy children grow: *physically, mentally, spiritually*
(see Jesus, Luke 2:40)
3. Lack of growth in children leads to natural concern,
and wherever possible to corrective action.
*Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head,
into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together
by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly,
promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love. Ephesians 4:15-16*
4. Environments (such as Families, Schools and Churches)
are either nurturing or not: they facilitate growth or work against it
5. Nurturing environments are
 - a. Places of Shelter: Protection and Safety (see Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs). The Psalms speak about God as a fortress (x 12), a rock (31) and a refuge (x 50). E.g., Psalms 31, 91.
 - b. Places of Fellowship: Relationship and Community
*“Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals
yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones,
let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:4-5*