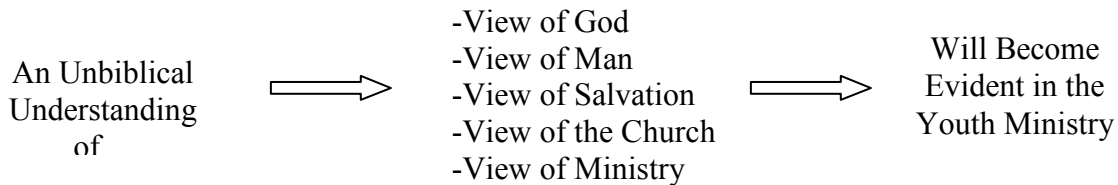


Southside Bible Church- Philosophy of Youth Ministry

- **A Brief History of Youth Ministry**

- ⌚ The present model adopted by most evangelical churches is an outgrowth of the Youth for Christ “youth rallies,” that began in the 1930’s. They involved famous speakers (athletes, etc.), big auditoriums, upbeat music, and brief messages.¹
- ⌚ By the 1950’s age segregated “youth groups” were common in most churches.
- ⌚ Since then, the American church’s model of youth ministry has gone in every direction imaginable.
- ⌚ Prior to the 1930’s, there was little or no age segregation of young people. Young people moved from childhood to adulthood, without a period of unaccountability (or adolescence, 12-18), and without a separate model of church ministry.
- ⌚ The reasons why this shift occurred in the early 20th century are various and debatable. The question for us is not so much how we got here, but should we be here, and where would God have us as a church.

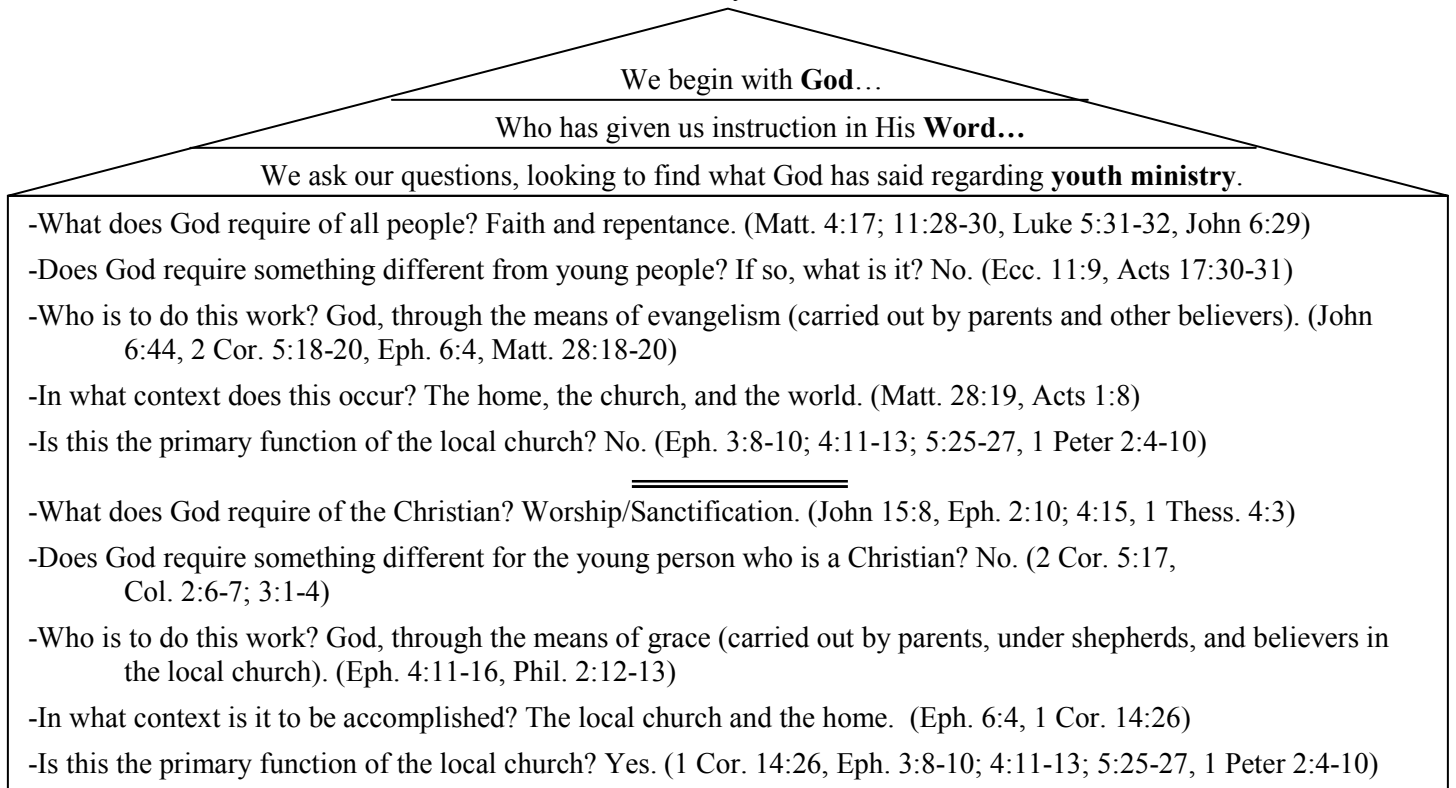
- **Foundational Errors Contributing to an Unbiblical Ministry Philosophy**



When the view of God is low, and the view of man is high, and the view of salvation is man-centered, and the view of the church is evangelistic, and the view of ministry is pragmatic, the youth ministry will be the first to reflect this.

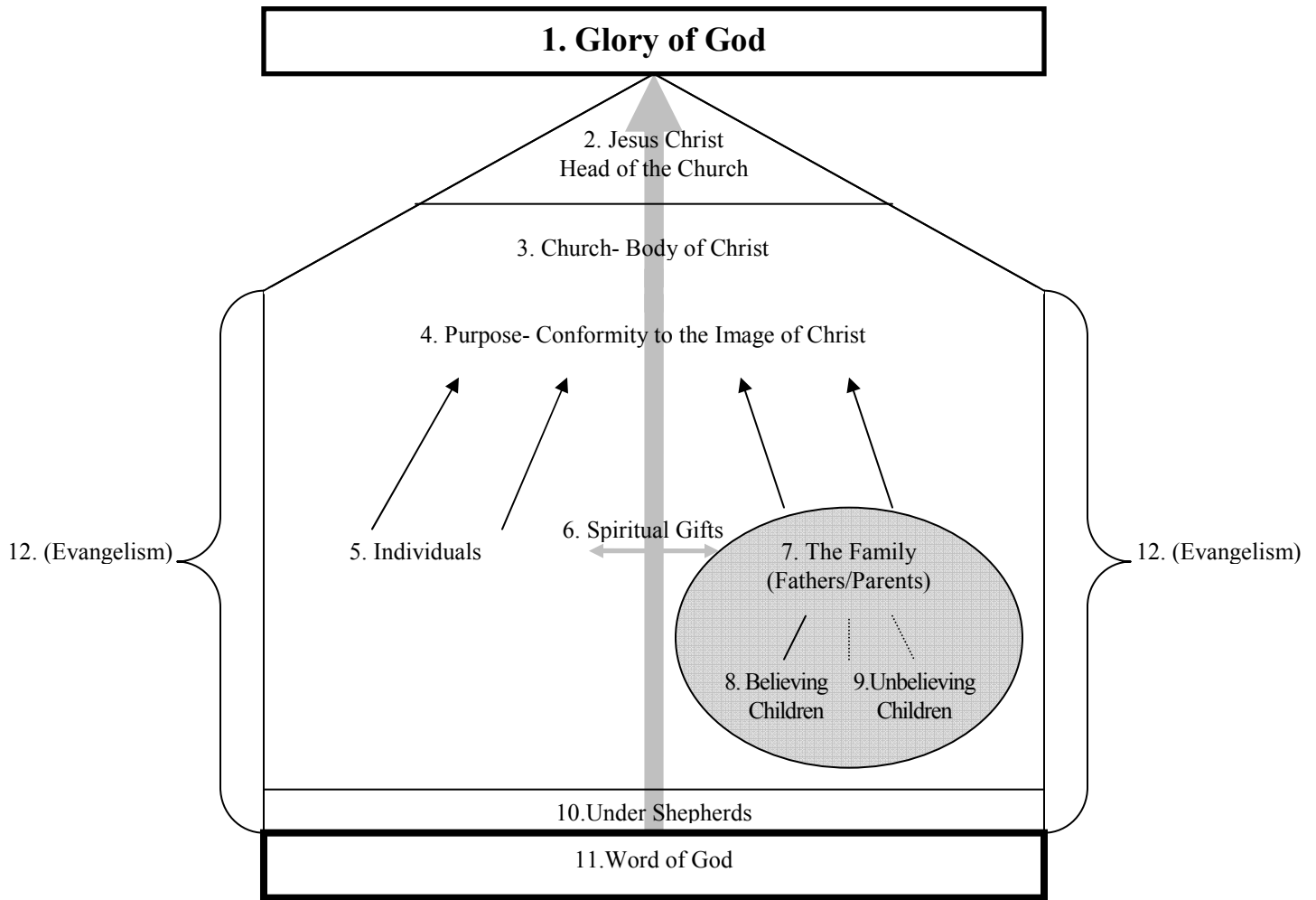
- **The Justification of Youth Ministry**

Should there be a “Youth Ministry” at Southside Bible Church?



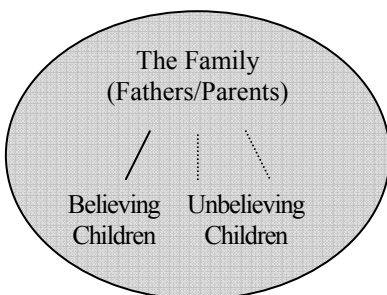
¹ Schlect, Chris *Critique of Modern Youth Ministry* (Idaho: Canon Press: 1995) 8.

- **The Function and Ministry of the Local Church**



1. Glory of God- Romans 11:36, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 3:20-21, 1 Peter 4:11
2. Jesus Christ- Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23-24
3. The Church- Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 3:8-12, 1 Timothy 3:14-15, 1 Peter 2:4-10
4. Conformity to the Image of Christ- Ephesians 4:11-16
5. Individuals- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27
6. Spiritual Gifts- Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:15-16, 1 Peter 4:10
7. The Family- Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21
8. Believing Children- Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20
9. Unbelieving Children- Romans 10:17, 1 Corinthians 14:23-25, Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20
10. Under Shepherds- 1 Corinthians 16:15-16, 1 Timothy 5:17-20, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 5:1-5
11. Word of God- 1 Timothy 3:14-15, 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-2, James 1:18
12. Evangelism- Matthew 28:18-20 , Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-15

- **The Unique Challenge of Youth Ministry**



- Children of believing parents may or may not be Christians.
- This is providential. (1 Corinthians 7:14).
- We cannot alter or redirect the ministry of the local church, as it has been prescribed to us in the Scriptures.
- What are we to do? We must carry on with the ministry of the church to believers, remaining vigilant and deliberate toward the souls of our unbelieving children.

- **The Authority, Responsibility, and Goal of Youth Ministers (Parents, Pastors, Believers)**

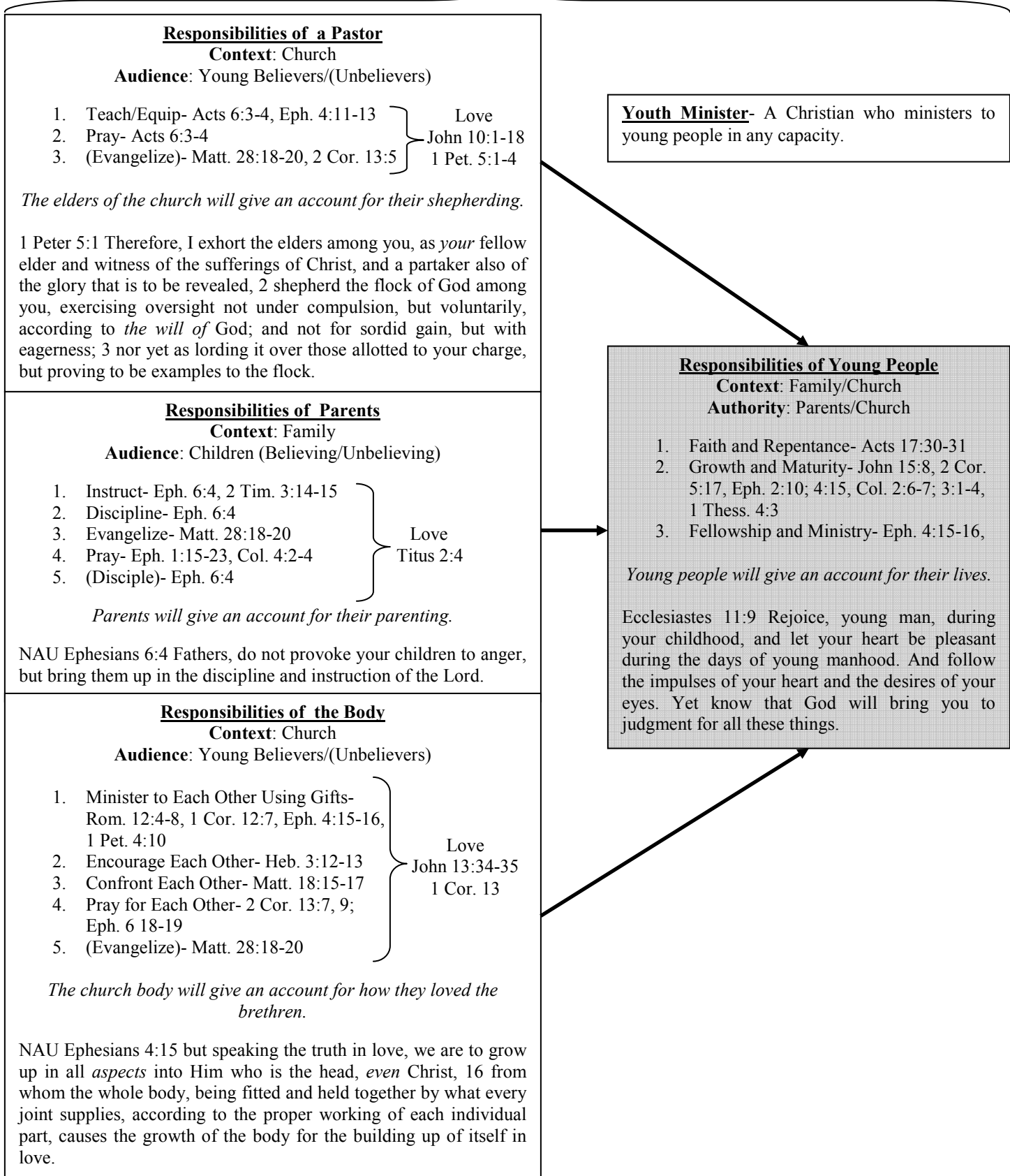
God



Word of God



Ministry and Authority of a Local Church



- **Boundaries, Limitations, and Expectations of a Youth Ministry**

(I= anyone involved in the youth ministry, i.e. youth pastor, youth leaders)

1. *I will not usurp the parental role.*
2. *I will not undermine the parental role.*
3. *I will not discipline your son or daughter.*
4. *I will not counsel your son or daughter without your permission.*
5. *I cannot “fix” your son or daughter.*
6. *I cannot save your son or daughter.*
7. *I cannot be your child’s best friend, dad, uncle, or playmate.*
8. *I will teach your son or daughter the Word of God.*
9. *I will equip your son or daughter toward a lifetime of faithful ministry.*
10. *I will exhort your son or daughter often to honor you as their parents, obeying you in the Lord.*
11. *I will pray for your son or daughter, for their salvation/growth.*
12. *I will strive to live an exemplary life before your son or daughter.*

- **Two Philosophies/Ministry Models Compared**

<u>Cultural/Pragmatic Model</u>	<u>Biblical Model</u>
-Pragmatically Designed	-Biblically Derived
-Man Centered	-God Centered
-Program Centered	-Bible Teaching Centered
-Priority on Evangelism	-Priority on Discipleship/Equipping
-“Relevant”/Topical/Practical Use of Bible	-Doctrinal/Expositional Studies
-Fun Based	-Study Oriented
-Independent of Church Body	-Church Ministry
-Independent of Parents	-Parent Ministry
-Arminian Gospel	-Gospel of Free, Sovereign Grace
-Low Expectations	-High Expectations
-Often Silly, Foolish	-Sober/Serious/Joyful
-Sub-Culture Driven	-Sub-Culture Resistant
-Age Segregated	-Age Integrated
-Young/Cool Leaders	-Faithful Leaders
-Results/Numbers Driven	-Glory Driven

- **The Role of Doctrine**

NAU Titus 2:6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;⁷ in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified, ⁸ sound *in* speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

God is good to us in His Word, by telling us the “what” and the “why.” He is concerned about why we do, what we do. Therefore He has included many “therefore” statements throughout the Scripture. The cart cannot come before the horse. Our minds must be established Biblically before we move forward practically. Paul spent eleven chapters of Romans and three of Ephesians, establishing doctrine in the minds of his readers. In light of that instruction, the “therefore” follows.

It is no different with young people. While practical instruction and relevant issues will not be ignored, we will seek to lay deep, doctrinal foundations laid out for us in the text. A young person who understands the glory of God, His holiness, His omniscience, and our reconciliation to Him through the finished work of Christ will battle sin and pursue righteousness out of love for that Christ, instead of because the Bible simply “says so.” Relevant application ought to flow out of deep doctrinal convictions that move our hearts to obey Christ out of love for Him. The teaching ministry of this church is aimed at this reality.

The challenge for a youth ministry is to stretch the young people practically and academically, challenging them to grow in their view of God, without discouraging them with unnecessarily difficult teaching. Doctrine is the means of equipping Christians to know God, and grow in their faith (1 Tim. 4:6, Eph. 4:14, 2 Tim. 4:3). Therefore, doctrine is essential to this ministry.

- **Balancing Evangelism and Discipleship**

How is an equipping ministry to be orchestrated when, at any given time, the percentage of unbelievers attending may be significant?

-The ministry of the local church is to carry on. It is not to be reversed and restructured into an ongoing evangelistic outreach. Doctrinal teaching with practical application is the goal of the youth ministry.

-The unbelieving, however, are not neglected. A continual call to faith and repentance under girds this equipping ministry. No one knows when a young person’s “day of visitation” might be.

J.C. Ryle- *(A man) must be “born again”—born from above, born of God. The natural birth is no more necessary to the life of the body, than is the spiritual birth to the life of the soul (2 Cor. 5:17; John 3:3) I know well this is a hard saying. I know the children of this world dislike to hear that they must be born again. It pricks their consciences: it makes them feel they are further off from heaven than they are willing to admit. It seems like a narrow door which they have not yet stooped to enter, and they would gladly make the door wider, or climb in some other way. But I dare not give way in this matter. I will not foster a delusion and tell people they only need repent a little, and stir up a gift they have within them, in order to become real Christians. I dare not use any other language than that of the Bible; and I say, in the words which are written for our learning, “We all need to be born again; we are all naturally dead, and must be made alive.”²*

- **Youth Ministry Is Church Ministry**

NAU 1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

The conclusion in light of the Biblical data is simple. Youth ministry is church ministry. It is not a separate sub-culture driven by other means or expectations. All that is written to the church, applies to the young people in the church. They are to first know Christ by faith, and then “grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.”

² Ryle, J.C. *Alive or Dead* (Pensacola: Chapel Library) 6.