

Meditation for Confirmation Sunday, September 17, 2017

Confirmands, how many of you have had a parent, teacher, sibling, or friend tell you to grow up? You all have, of course. That's what we expect our children and youth to do- grow up. At your age in particular, as you move into your high school years, you'll feel more pressure to make a plan for your life- your future career, where you want to live, whether you want to start your own families. You know- trivial things like that. And increasingly in this world, you'll be encouraged to be an independent, relying on yourself and not on other people.

There is something to that, of course. We wouldn't want you calling up Mom for a ride to the grocery store when you're forty years old and I for one don't want to pay the cell phone bills for my children indefinitely- surely not for my grandchildren and great grandchildren! Even the apostle Paul, in Hebrews, tells us to grow up!

But there is such a thing as becoming too independent, especially as followers of Jesus. What Paul describes in his letter to the Galatians is the exact opposite of an independent, do-it-yourself life. When you affirm your baptismal vows today, you'll be agreeing to continue on a journey of becoming increasingly dependent on Jesus, with the plans Jesus has for you increasingly shaping the plans you've made for yourselves. By all means, keep on growing, but remember that to be great in the Kingdom of God, you have to become the servant of all.

Confirmands, it's entirely understandable that you might feel a bit as if you've graduated from Christianity today. There will be no more Confirmation Faith Nights, Confirmation Focus Nights, and Confirmation Retreats for you. You won't have any more required worship notes to turn in or required service projects. But as hard as all that was, your journey with Jesus has only started.

Continue to seek out Jesus by reading the Bible. Continue to praise God by worshipping with us here and elsewhere. Continue to grow by participating in the Senior High Youth Group here on Wednesday nights. Continue to grow in your servanthood by serving the church and your neighbors. Following Jesus is a way of life, not a graduation diploma. The promises you make today as you join the church are not just rules for membership-, they outline the plan Jesus has already made for your life. So grow up, and become more dependent on Jesus.



Buffalo United Methodist Church
...serving people for Jesus Christ so that we all may know joy!



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