**SGA Preaching Discussion Questions – from English Message on Oct 18 2015**

**Pastor Matt Gaw**

1. *What do you think the characteristics of a mature believer are?*
2. *Where do you think you need to be growing in?*
3. *How have you grown in your faith in the past few years?*
4. *Where do you think you’ll be in 1, 2, 5 and/or 10 years’ time in your faith journey?*
   1. *Would you be disappointed if you didn’t grow?*
   2. *What do you think that SGA can do to help you grow?*
   3. *What can you think you can do to help others grow?*

**Spiritual Milk and Meat**

*1 Corinthians 3:2 - I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.*

*Hebrews 5:12 - In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!*

*John MacArthur describes spiritual milk this way, “Milk, not a reference to certain doctrines, but to the more easily digestible truths of doctrine that were given to new believers.” He compared milk to solid food by saying, “solid food, the deeper features of the doctrines of scripture. The difference is not in kind of truth, but degree of depth. Spiritual immaturity makes one unable to receive the richest truths.” Milk is like pre-digested truth, easy to swallow whole, but meat requires development of teeth and the action of chewing. There is more involved in the process of eating solid food.*

1. *Are you in the need of spiritual milk and spiritual meat? What would that look like to you?*

**False Meats**

False meats are apparent spiritual foods that we are fed with but don’t grow by for some reason.

1. *What do you think are false meats that you personally feed yourself and how can you respond to it?*

Matt’s examples (do you agree or disagree with these and why?):

* False meat #1 - Church ministries are to be spiritual nutritionists, but sometimes it’s more like a spiritual fast food joint.
  + Response? We need to make a new spiritual meal plan of true fellowship –opening up to each other daily and praying for each other, bearing each other’s burdens (Acts 2).
* False meat #2 - We’re overfed with scripture, sermons, conferences and don’t take the time to digest and exercise what we learn.
  + Response? Eat less, exercise more.
* False meat #3 - You haven’t accepted a gospel of discipleship and committed to the true source of nutrition.
  + Response? To grow our spirit, we need to be rooted in the vine of Christ to get Spirit sourced nutrition (John 15).

**Present everyone fully mature in Christ**

Colossians 2:6-7 (The Message)

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you’ve been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You’re deeply rooted in him. You’re well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you’ve been taught. School’s out; quit studying the subject and start living it!

1 John 2:6 (NIV)

Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Sometimes maturity is choosing to fly instead of waiting in mama’s nest. Sometimes maturity is choosing to take a step of faith instead of desiring more training or growth.

1. *How can you step out in faith and live as Jesus did?*