

MATURITY IS THE GOAL

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As we endeavor to do God's will and fulfill His purpose we must understand what He wants us to do. The only way we can understand what God wants is by studying His word. The word of God is always that standard for our obedience to Him. Assuming that we know the fundamental commission which is found in Matthew 28:19-20 In short we are to make disciples. In the months ahead you will hear me speak a lot on discipleship simply because it is the foundation of growth and advancement.

Let's define Spiritual maturity: One definition that I like is (The development of Christ like character and behavior in the Christian through a renewed mind and tested faith)

Today we will like at 5 key Characteristics of maturity

1. Christlikeness is always the goal
2. Spiritual understanding
3. Discernment of God's will and changed behavior
4. Stability
5. Care for the weaker brother

1. Christlikeness is the goal:

Ephesians 4:13-16

- When we are in pursuit of spiritual maturity we will focus on what the word of God says and not what we want it to be or what ill meaning people say.

Colossians 2:6-10

- We must continue to encourage people to follow Christ and not us. As we live out our assignment we can show others how to stand in the face of ridicule. Please turn to

Hebrews 12:2-6

- Teaching others to follow Christ sometimes causes us to discipline and be disciplined. This doesn't mean to punish but merely lovingly correct. This is one way we are loved and are shown love.

2. Spiritual Understanding

Colossians 2:2

- The intent of all that we do is to become one unit in Christ and grow together in this life.

Ephesians 1:17-18

- Our involvement in the lives of others is to give them and accurate perspective of God so their lenses of Christianity will not be fogged up by the world.

3. Discernment of God's Will and Changed Behavior

Romans 12:2

- Signs of maturity is not being conformed to this world and being transformed in our thinking. When we start to recognize our mental change then we know we are maturing.

Ephesians 4:22-23

4. Stability

Colossians 4:12

- Probably one of the most evident signs of spiritual maturity is stability and this is often a result of changed behavior. In stability we see that your steps are being ordered by the Lord. Immaturity causes instability.

CARE FOR THE WEAKER BROTHER

Romans 15:1

- A sign of our development is how well we treat others and how graceful we are to others.