

The Sweetest Fellowship this Side of Heaven

“Marks of Maturity: How to be a Growing Christian”

John 2:12–14
February 12, 2012

Are you a growing Christian? Could you be called a mature Christian? If we are to have the sweetest fellowship this side of heaven, we must be growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 6:1-2, “Therefore, leaving the elementary message about the Messiah, let us go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, faith in God, teaching about ritual washings, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.”

Maturity is C _____ - L _____. **Ephesians 4:13**, “...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.”

Colossians 1:28, “We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”

The Marks of Maturity:

I. The Thrilling Wonders of C _____.

vs. 12, 14: “I write you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of His name ... and because you have come to know the Father.”

Little babies can be _____

II. The Triumphant Warfare of M _____.

vs. 14 I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, God’s word remains in you, and you have had victory over the evil one.

III. The Tested Wisdom of F _____.

vs.13 & 14 I am writing to you, fathers, because you have come to know the One who is from the beginning.

What do fathers do? He R _____.

A father not only meets his own needs; he P _____ for the needs of others.

Fathers have and share W _____.

In Fatherhood (spiritually speaking) is a composite of all the levels of maturity.

Who was the apostle John really?

What are the means of maturity?

I. There must Be the Miracle of L _____.

II. Growth Requires the Passage of T _____.

III. Growth Requires the Receiving of N _____.

1 Peter 2:2, “Like newborn infants, desire the pure spiritual milk, so that you may grow by it for your salvation.”

Jeremiah 15:16, “Your words were found, and I ate them. Your words became a delight to me and the joy of my heart, for I am called by Your name, Yahweh God of Hosts.”

IV. Growth Demands Discipline and E _____.

Hebrews 5:14, “But solid food is for the mature — for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil.”

Next Steps

- Memorize **Colossians 1:28**, “We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”
- I will take stock of my spiritual maturity and seek to grow toward/in “Fatherhood.”
- Pastor, you can count on me to step up and be a worker and a warrior in our church.
- I have no spiritual life to grow from. I need to be saved and become a Christian today.