

Maturity in Church

Introduction:

As we prepare ourselves for meeting more people and greeting more visitors to our services, let's encourage ourselves tonight to grow in the Lord. Consider: when I grow up; kids wearing parents shoes, clothes, hats and coats. Learning a favorite sports star's moves; pretending to act like a singer or star. To be mature is a goal of the youth yet it requires time and experience. Maturity definition:

1. acting like an adult; showing mental, emotional or physical characteristics typical of a fully developed adult person.
2. **Experienced**; showing qualities gained from development and experience = mature behavior;
3. no longer young – mature. (I know – old)

God Sees us as Children:

The church is the family of God and no matter our age in the natural, we are regarded as children. Instruction is directed to have us 'think and act' in many situations, as a child would act (rejoicing, praise, forgiveness, malice, etc.) because children get over things easier and quicker in relationship confrontations and other troubles in life. A child has a dependency on the parents, trusting and having faith in them for all our needs – children shouldn't worry if parents are doing the right job.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

1 Cor.14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Matt.21:16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Psalms 131:2 Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.

1 Cor. 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (I grew up to behave my age in the things that require maturity)

Prayer Brings Maturity Faster:

Talking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance is evidence of our surrender to the Spirit. We need to pray in tongues every day. Tongues is not limited to one emotion we generated in prayer the 1st time we got the Holy Ghost. We need to grow in prayer and even our tongue will change and become richer, more deep. Stammering lips and another tongue as the Spirit gives the utterance trains us to yield to the Holy Ghost in prayer but God also wants us to yield or surrender to Him speaking in English when we testify to people, work and play every day. The goal is 'to be yielded' to the Spirit. Old Testament men and women yielded to God and spoke or performed deeds God wanted them to do. We have the indwelling or baptism of the Holy Ghost with evidence yet God hopes we realize the importance of a continual yielding to Him all through the day. This brings maturity. People who constantly struggle speaking in tongues, getting help to pray through often, are still babes and cannot be given responsibility.

Matt.10:19-20 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. [20] For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

Our Holy Ghost testimony is powerful. Let the Lord teach you and you will mature faster and surer. No matter how long you have been in church, do not worry (do not fear) about people who are not in truth – you have the advantage with just a little knowledge and understanding. We do not have to impress anyone. It is not a carnal, proud competition living for God (dress better than others, talent competitions). Babies do these things because they lack maturity.

1 Tim. 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Luke 21:13-15 [13] And it shall turn to you for a testimony. [14] Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: [15] For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

Experience will Come:

Rom.5:3-5 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; [4] And patience, experience; and experience, hope: [5] And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

If people would just stay humble and obedient in all things – it is easier than you think – God will help us mature.

