

# Fruit of Maturity

Troubling The Darkness - Week 9 (8-31-22)

Hebrews 5:11 - 6:12

## I. The Need for Spiritual Maturity

- A. The foundation is mandatory, but it is the completed structure that protects you from the storm.
- B. There is a desperate need for spiritual maturity in the church today.
  - 1. When I think of immaturity, I think of selfishness. Not considering other people in any of my decisions.
    - a) 4 Tenets of Secularism (rooted in the authority of self)
      - (1) Feelings are the ultimate guide
      - (2) Happiness is the ultimate goal
      - (3) Judging is the ultimate sin
      - (4) God is the ultimate guess
    - b) Natasha Crain - Faithfully Different
    - c) Secularism is all about separating religion from society. It's fine if you want to believe in God and go to church, but it does not belong on the public square or in politics.
- C. "...be fruitful, and multiply..." Gen. 1:28
  - 1. The fruit is the means by which a plant multiplies. It's the whole purpose of the fruit.
    - a) The can't multiply without first bearing fruit.
    - b) Children are not yet physically equipped to reproduce, and they cannot equip and train other children.
      - (1) New believers should not be mentoring other new believers, they need to be mentored themselves.
      - (2) You cannot teach what you don't know.
        - (a) The things that you have put to practice are the things that you have owned, and know the best.
- D. If you're living, you're growing. If you're growing, you're living.
  - 1. One of the 7 essential signs of a living organism is growth.
    - a) If something does not grow at some point it's technically not considered alive.
    - b) you're designed to grow, so if you want to truly live you need to be growing!
  - 2. If you don't continue to move forward, you will never accomplish what God has for you to do!
    - a) Your life is no longer your's. It's hidden in Christ and the more you pursue Him, the more life you will find.
      - (1) Colossians 3:1-4
- E. Endurance - We need to be able to handle "strong meat" because of the sustenance and enduring strength that it brings.

1. Babies have to eat every couple of hours because milk does not sustain us like meat does.

- a) There is a time that our spirits can only handle the “sincere milk of the word.”

- (1) 1 Peter 2:1-3

## II. What does Spiritual Maturity Look like?

A. Being spiritually mature is when your whole character (dispositions, words, and actions) emulates the character of Jesus Christ Himself.

1. Eph. 5:1 - “Be ye therefore followers (Imitators) of God, as dear children.”

- a) Matt. 5:48 - “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect.”

- (1) Perfect = teleios - full grown, mature, complete, having reached it’s utmost development.

2. Romans 8:12-18

- a) Jesus was continually led by the Spirit of God, and then sent the Holy Spirit to be with us as well.

- (1) Jesus was the first born, and we are joint heirs with Him

B. “Unity is a sign of maturity” D.L. - Eph. 4:13-16

1. “... the measure and stature of the fulness of Christ.”

2. Body of Christ mentality not just “me and my life”

3. These spiritual gifts were given for the purpose of uniting and growing the church.  
Not for the edifying of the individual

## III. Add to Your Faith!

A. 2 Peter 1:1-10