

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Maturity

"Maturity is the art of living in peace with that which we cannot change." – Anonymous

"You grow up the day you have your first real laugh at yourself." – Ethel Barrymore

"Maturity is the capacity to endure uncertainty." – John Finley

"One sign of maturity is knowing when to ask for help." – Dennis Wholey

"Maturity is the ability to think, speak, and act your feelings within the bounds of dignity. The measure of your maturity is how spiritual you become during the midst of your frustrations." – Samuel Ullman

In his second definition, Webster notes that *immature* means, "lacking complete growth, differentiation, or development," whereas, *maturity* is "full development."

One of the common misconceptions that folks have is that a true maturity comes with age. Generally speaking, one would tend to think that with time that there would be a measure of wisdom and growth, and that maturity would be the inevitable outcome. But how often in the church have we seen those individuals who should have reached a maturity in Christ but instead remain immature? Sometimes their actions and attitudes are quite childish. If you didn't know better, you would think you were dealing with children.

Even in the accumulation of Scriptural knowledge, it is shocking at times to see how little some longtime members really know. Facing this problem the Hebrew writer noted, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:12-14).

Consider the admonitions: "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Cor. 13:11). "Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature" (1 Cor. 14:20, ESV).

The church needs a good dose of maturity. Much of the internal strife and discord comes from a lack of it. Brethren need to learn that Christianity is not Burger King religion, who advocates, "Have it your way." Instead, we mature when we realize that everything is not about ourselves, but the will of the true and living God.