

Ephesians 4:11-15; Galatians 5:13-26

Series – Forward to Maturity

Message – The Character of Christ

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Fifth Reformed Church

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“Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1a).

The Goal of Maturity

- The goal of discipleship is _____ disciples.
- Colossians 1:28-29
- Ephesians 4:13
- Maturity is “attaining to the _____ measure of the _____ of Christ.”
- Colossians 1:15, 19 / Hebrews 1:3 / Colossians 2:9-10
- Maturity is being filled to the _____ with all the grace and truth and character of God.
- “Spiritual maturity cannot be separated from emotional and relational maturity” (Marcus Warner, A Deeper Walk, p.25).

The Effects of Maturity

- Ephesians 4:14-15
- Maturity brings _____.
- Maturity changes one’s _____.
- Speaking the truth in love is the _____ of defending oneself in fear.

The Pursuit of Maturity

- Galatians 5:22-23
 - The fruit of the Spirit is what the fullness of Christ _____ like in everyday life.
- Galatians 5:17
 - “Flesh” here refers _____ human nature, not just physical bodies.
- Galatians 5:19-21
 - Growing in maturity will involve _____ because our nature is being remade.
- The fruit of the Spirit is not a _____ list.
- “No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me” (John 15:4).
- Christians pursue maturity in Christ by _____ the Lord, not by trying harder to bear fruit.

Reflection Questions

1. To what degree have you understood, and acted upon, the truth that full maturity in Christ is the primary goal of your life?
2. How does it feel to you that God wants to fill you to the brim with the grace, truth, and character of Jesus?
3. Discuss the claim that “Spiritual maturity cannot be separated from emotional and relational maturity.” Do you buy it? Where have you seen this play out in life?
4. How has your relationship with Christ brought stability to you? How has it changed your posture toward others and the world?
5. If the fruit of the Spirit is not a to-do list, how would you explain to a new Christ follower the path of growth in Jesus?
6. What was the most challenging part of this message for you?
7. How is God getting your attention?
8. What might God be saying to you?
9. What is your next faithful step?