

Life Together: Maturity In Christ

Reflect

1. Who do you know that you consider highly mature?
2. Why do you see them that way?
3. What is one area you think you lack maturity as a person? (Where do you need to grow?)

Read Your Bible

- Ephesians 4:14-16
- Matthew 10:16

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Which tends to influence you more: slick teaching or cunning people? Do you consider yourself someone who is too easily "blown here and there"?
2. What is "speaking the truth in love"?
3. Why is it necessary, according to these Ephesians 4 verses?
4. We are called to "grow up" in our Jesus relationships, to become the "mature body of Him who is the head." What might that kind of community look like?
5. What do you think Jesus wants you to hear clearly about following Him in Matthew 10:16?
6. He mentions two things you will need: innocence and shrewdness. How are you doing with those recently?

7. How can we step further into maturity in Christ? What will you ask the Spirit's help with?

Conclusion

When was a time you thought you were right, then found out you were wrong? How did you respond? How we react to uncomfortable situations can tell us a lot about our maturity. Jesus followers are invited to embrace the task of growing and maturing. Imagine God leaning back from the driver's seat and saying, "Buckle up, everybody!" Expect discomfort. Expect growing pains. Expect hard questions. Safety cannot be your primary goal if you will be My disciples. You are my flock. Let Me teach you what you'll need—both innocence and shrewdness—as I send you out among the wolves of this world. So, we don't run from hard truth; we expect it. We don't cling to pride; we repent of it. We aren't know-it-alls; we ask our Lord to teach us. We acknowledge that life with Jesus requires starting over. What does this mean for you as the church? What might a mature community in Christ look like? Ask these questions and embrace the invitation to grow up into the maturity God designed us for.

Pray

Dear Lord, we need You. You're the Father that raises us. You're the Savior that teaches us. You're the Spirit that leads us into truth. Cleanse our hearts from all pride and pretending. Replace our stubbornness with Your maturity. Please raise us as Your kids and make us truth speakers in our generation, so that we might grow up together in mature love. We love You, Lord Jesus. You are our innocence and our wisdom. Amen.