

WHAT IS A MATURE CHRISTIAN? 131  
Charles Huff

TEXT: 2 Pet. 1:5-11.

INTRODUCTION: Every Christian needs spiritual growth.

1. Spiritual Maturity does not mean "sinless perfection"
2. Does not mean one never makes a mistake, but he handles his problems.
3. Greek word TE LA OS means "mature, complete."
4. Maturity can't be determined by seniority in Christ. Not determined by age.
5. Must appeal to the N.T. for the answer "What Is A Mature Christian?"

BODY:

I. MATURE CHRISTIANS ARE ABLE TO EAT SOLID FOOD- Heb. 5:12-14.

- A. Babes need milk- 1 Pet. 2:1-2.
- B. Spiritual dwarf more pathetic than physical dwarf- 1 Cor. 3:1-3.
- C. Need to hear "First principles" but must go on to maturity- Heb. 6:1-2.
- D. Able to discern good and evil- Heb. 5:14.
  1. Knows right and wrong living. Isa. 5:20 **Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**
  2. Knows right and wrong doctrine (teaching):
    - a. 2 Jn. 9-10.
    - b. Jn. 7:17 **"If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.**

II. MATURE CHRISTIANS ARE ABLE TO CONFRONT FALSE TEACHERS- UNMOVED Eph. 4:11-16.

- A. V 14 "No longer children" but full grown.

B. V 15 truth spoken in love helps us to grow.

C. Elijah- 1 Kings 18:21 **And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.**

III. MATURE CHRISTIANS WALK IN BROTHERLY LOVE (Heb. 13:1) Let B.L. continue.

A. Takes off "old man" and puts on "new"- Col. 3:8-9, 12-14.

B. If we have "LOVE" we can overcome "FEAR"- 1 Jn. 4:18-21.

IV. MATURE CHRISTIANS GUARD THEIR INFLUENCE- Rom. 14:13-21.

A. We must regard what others think and live accordingly.

1. 1 Cor. 10:23-24.

2. 1 Cor. 10:32-33.

B. Paul, a "free man" in Christ, subjected himself to all men's conscience- 1 Cor. 9:19-23.

V. MATURE CHRISTIANS PRACTICE PURE RELIGION- James 1:21-27.

A. Laying aside wrong and seeking right- v. 21.

B. A hearer and doer of the word- V. 22.

C. Visits needy, sick, lonely v. 27.

D. Pure religion means to "put a bridle on the tongue- v. 26.

VI. MATURE CHRISTIANS OVERCOME:

A. Overcome the world- 1 Jn. 5:4-5.

B. Overcomes evil with good- Matt. 5:43-48.

VII. MATURE CHRISTIANS BEAR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY- Gal. 6:1-5.

A. Show concern for weaker brethren- vs. 1 Rom. 15:1-2.

B. Does not boast in own work- Lk. 17:10.

C. Saved by grace through faith, nothing to boast of- Eph. 2:8-9.

VIII. MATURE CHRISTIANS ARE CONSCIOUS OF PERSONAL IMPERFECTIONS- Phil. 3:12-15.

A. Feels need of Bible study- 1 Cor. 8:2. **"If anyone thinks he knows all the answers he has not yet reached that knowledge which he ought to have reached."**

B. Is "poor in spirit" Matt. 5:3 "Hunger and thirst (Matt. 5:6).

C. Does not "think too highly of himself- Rom. 12:3.

**CONCLUSION: 2 Pet. 3:17-18. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.**