

Some Ways to Measure Spiritual Maturity

Phil. 3:13-15

Introduction:

- A. Maturity is possibly the greatest need among Christians today.
- B. Maturity is high on God's priorities for Christians.
 - 1. Gave workers in church to that end. (Eph 4:11-13)
 - 2. Expects each to work to that end. (2 Pet. 3:18).
- C. Maturity can be measured in any number of ways:

Discussion:

- I. By How Stable One Is in Doctrine (Eph. 4:11-16).**
 - A. Children tossed to and fro by every wind.
 - B. Mature united by truth spoken in love.
- II. By How Consistent One Is in His Thinking (Matt. 11:16-19).**
 - A. Jews as immature as children in their criticism.
 - B. Christians often inconsistent in word and deed.
- III. By the Kind of Preaching and Teaching one Favors . (1 Cor. 2:6).**
 - A. Mature appreciate the power of the gospel (1:18).
 - 1. Its sufficiency (2:2).
 - 2. Its source. (2:7-13).
 - B. Immature impressed by other things.
 - 1. Excellence of speech and human reasoning (2:1-5).
 - 2. Sensationalism and novelty (1:22-25; 1 Cor. 14:18-22).
- IV. By How One Views Faithful Gospel Preachers and Teachers (1 Cor. 3:1-5)**
 - A. Immature of treat them as competitors. (3:3-8)
 - B. Mature honors and appreciates all without being of any. (3:5-10).
- V. By How Well One Handles Solid Spiritual Food (Heb. 5:12-14).**
 - A. Immature appreciates only the most elementary teaching.
 - 1. Does not like to have to think or discern.
 - 2. Prefers all teaching be overly simplified.
 - B. Mature appreciates having his thinking challenged to improve his skills.
- VI. By How Determined One Is to Reach Heaven (Phil. 3:12-15).**
 - A. Never finding a place to stop, ever pressing on (v. 12).
 - B. Never looking back, ever reaching forward (v.13-14, cf. Lk. 9:62).

Conclusion:

- A. How mature are you? More than a year ago?
- B. What are you doing to develop maturity?