

Scripture: Exodus 20 & Philippians 1:1-11
Singing: 9:1-3 – 419:2 – 321:1-4 – 64:1-3 – 407:1-4

Let's Study Philippians (4)

PETITIONS TO GROW IN CHRISTIAN MATURITY

I. The Definition of Christian Maturity II. The Basis of Christian Maturity III. The Fruit of Christian Maturity

I. THE DEFINITION OF CHRISTIAN MATURITY

A. What is Christian maturity?

1. Christlike maturity is love like Paul displayed (vs. 8)
2. Christlike maturity is not sentimental love (vs. 9)
3. Christlike maturity is revealed in wisdom and uprightness (vs. 10)
4. Christlike maturity is a life to the glory and praise of God (vs. 11)

II. THE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN MATURITY

A. The basis (root) of Christian maturity is *love*

1. A Christian is man in whom the love of God is shed abroad (Rom. 5:5)
2. To be a growing to glory as a Christian, our love needs to abound!
 - a. original idea is a 'fountain flowing'
 - b. examples besides Jesus: Timothy (2:20-21) – Epaphroditus (2:25-30)
3. How to abound in this Christian love?

B. Christian Maturity is not just lots of love (9b)

1. It is love balanced with knowledge and judgment (discernment)
2. It is love like Paul displayed in his ministry of prayer and preaching

3. It is love that isn't wasted by poor manners or wrong objects

III. THE FRUIT OF CHRISTIAN MATURITY

A. We all face choices – dilemma's – crossroads – crisis

1. Some choices straightforward: *God's clear commands*

2. Some choices take much discretion: *no clear command*

B. Christian maturity blooms in attractive fruits

1. Mature mindset: *approve things that are excellent*

a. immaturity is when we make choices based on feelings

b. mature mindset focusses on the essential and eternal (Col. 1:9-11)

● highly necessary as we face *cultural crisis years*

2. Upright walk: *to be sincere and without offence till day of Christ*

a. sincere is when we walk according to light of truth in fear of God

b. without offence is when we don't cause others to stumble

c. day of Christ: *what will Jesus be looking for when He comes?*

3. Inner glory: *final harvest of all God's work is vs. 11*

LIVING THE TRUTH

A. There is but one way to live these truths: *through Jesus Christ (11b)*

I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.

Phil. 4:13