

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, May 6, 2018
Can I Talk to You Like Grown-ups?
2: Metrics for Maturity I

TEXT: 1 Peter 2:1-3 / Matthew 5:48 NLT But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

As we began our quest for personal purity, we wanted to look for how we get there without becoming legalists. We talked about the awfulness of sin, and then the amazing finished work of Christ in His death and resurrection (Easter) but now we need to grow up!

We saw that God expects us to feed on His Word and grow because there are promises He has given that we cannot grasp as babies, and that we can and should grow into the likeness of Christ. We committed to praying for revelation, not just information. I hope you have been praying, because I have.

How do we measure where we are?

- 1) Matthew 5:48 a very high bar
 - a) Luke 6:40 Jesus is our measure
 - b) The word most modern translations translate as mature is *teleios* (tel'-i-os); complete. The KJV renders it "of full age, or perfect." *Teleios* is from *tellos* which means to set out for a primary purpose or goal. Perfection or maturity is to be **assertively progressing toward our purpose**.
 - c) Where are you on the journey? Are you progressing toward maturity, toward your God-given purpose?
 - d) **What are your Maturity Metrics**
 - i) We saw last week that babies are contentious and argumentative (1 Corinthians 3:1-3), and that being a hearer and not a doer causes us to be babies (Hebrews 5:11-14).
 - ii) **Scorecard:**
 - (1) Are you immersed in strife and contention? Listen to your mouth. Are you a blamer and a victim or an owner and a victor? How much drama do you generate?
 - (2) Are you doing the Word that you know? In morals, money, time, service? Get honest with yourself.
 - iii) Maturity requires an attitude of the heart that recognizes the ongoing work of the Spirit in our lives and yields to that work willingly. Isaiah 64:8 Psalm 84:5-7 Happy people are those who have set their hearts on the journey.

- iv) **Scorecard:** Are you open to the work of the Spirit to change you? Are you consciously aware that God is working in your life? How do you know? Has it happened lately?
- 2) James 1:2-4 Maturity requires testing of your faith.
 - a) Faith without a trial is a theory. Testing comes to all. Those who grow are those who
 - i) Count it all joy: Babies whimper. Kids gripe. Adults rejoice.
 - ii) Know this: God is at work and It is all gonna be for the good.
 - iii) Maturity is grounded in patience: perseverance, consistency
 - b) **Scorecard:** When tests come, where do you fall on the maturity chart? Quit - Cry - Complain - Tolerate - Rejoice
 - 3) Matt 19:21 if you will be mature, let it go and pick it up.
 - a) This guy had it made in the natural: Rich, young, and powerful.
 - b) Keeping an external standard cannot perfect. The guy is trying to negotiate what part of the Law he had to keep. Jesus didn't even argue with his pride: no man has kept the Law. Keeping more rules would not have saved him.
 - c) Jesus loved him enough to answer his question, looking into his heart and identifying the thing he was clinging to which prevented him from moving on to follow Him. Mark 10:21
 - d) **Scorecard:**
 - i) What is dearer to you than the will of God?
 - (1) Belongings/Money
 - (2) Status (pride)
 - (3) People
 - (4) Places
 - ii) What place of service are you unwilling to enter?
 - (1) Job
 - (2) Family
 - (3) Community
 - (4) Church

This week take these questions into your prayer time. Open your heart and your Bible and ask God to give you honest answers. **Let's grow up.**