

Faith Christian Fellowship  
Sunday, May 13, 2018  
Can I Talk to You Like Grown-ups?  
3: Metrics for Maturity II

TEXT: 1 Peter 2:1-3 / Matthew 5:48

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.

How do we measure where we are? Last time we looked at Christ as our goal, defined immaturity, and looked at the importance of developing consistency. Today, as it is Mother's Day, we will take a look at the gold standard:

- 1) Matthew 5:43-48. Mature love
  - a) Love and bless your enemies
  - b) The love of the Father blesses all equally
  - c) Love that is reserved for the deserving is in no way different from the unbeliever.
  - a) Our call to maturity is a call to love. Scorecard: Pray for someone you don't like.
- 2) Love is the commandment that frees us from the law.
  - a) Jesus called it a new commandment. John 13:34-35
    - i) Under the Old Covenant, the highest aspiration was to love you neighbor with the same love you have for yourself.
    - ii) Scorecard: When was the last time you did something for someone with no expectation of return?
  - b) It is a commandment which can only be fulfilled by yielding to the Spirit of Him who is love.
    - i) Galatians 5:16-18 NLT (18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.
    - ii) The outcome of the spirit in us is love: Galatians 5:22-23 ... Against such there is no law.
    - iii) Scorecard: Give yourself a score of 1-10 on each of the eight aspects of love given here. If 56 is a bottom C, how did you do?

- 3) Love grows (like fruit) 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
  - a) Our capacity for the God kind of love increases as we grow up.
  - b) In context, He is coming to them to help fill in what lacks in their faith. Love grows as we grow. We grow as we feed on the Word
  - c) Scorecard: When you read the Word or listen to teaching, what is most often the subject? Is it health and wealth for you?
- 4) I can love you because I believe He loved me.
  - a) 1 John 4:7-11
    - i) Love is of God – He is the source and the only source. You can't do it by effort.
    - ii) You can be born of God and not know God intimately: That is the problem for the one who is a Christian but doesn't love
    - iii) The singular example we have is the pre-emptive, sacrificial love of God demonstrated in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
    - iv) Scorecard: What practice enhances your intimacy with the Lord? When was the last time you did it?
  - b) 1 John 4:16-19 know the love AND believe the love
    - i) Love is matured in us in this way. Therefore we are not concerned about the day of judgment because we reflect His nature in the earth
    - ii) Scorecard: For the next 24 hours, make a note of every time you are afraid. IF you believe the love of God, why are you worried?
    - iii) We love Him because we see the love expressed in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Romans 5:8
  - c) To fulfil the commandment of love, believe the proclamation and demonstration of love. Note verse 10. This is love.
  - d) Scorecard: Maturity is marked by being willing to let God love through you with no restrictions. Are you willing?

In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, (6) and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, (7) and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. (8) The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8 NLT