

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, May 20, 2018
Can I Talk to You Like Grown-ups?
4: Metrics for Maturity III

TEXT: 1 Peter 2:1-3 / Matthew 19:21

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? We looked at Christ as our goal, defined immaturity, the importance of developing consistency, then last week the love standard. Today, we explore the key of letting go in order to move on.

- 1) **Maturity requires motion.** Matt 19:16-22
 - a) Note Verse 21. He had it all but was not mature. “(perfect)”
 - b) Maturity is not measured by material blessing, fame or power, or numerical age. Notice Verses 23-24. / 1 Timothy 4:12
 - c) Maturity is not marked by adherence to the law. Keeping an external standard cannot perfect. Galatians 3:3 / Matthew 23:25
 - i) Notice the guy is trying to negotiate what part of the Law he had to keep. We all choose our favorite sins, then target others for theirs.
 - ii) Note the pride: no man has kept the Law. Keeping more rules would not have saved him.
 - d) **Scorecard:** Who do you see as “spiritual?” What qualities do you admire in others?
 - e) Jesus loved him enough to answer his question: **Notice there are 3 ingredients to maturity here:** Mark 10:21
- 2) **Let go! = Sell + Give**
 - a) Jesus looked into his heart and saw the thing he was clinging to which prevented him from moving on to follow Him.
 - b) Sell and give. Both were required
 - i) **Sell** – the act of releasing the things. If you can’t live without it, then you need to get rid of it. Proverbs 3:9
 - (1) If a possession defines who you are or what you’re worth, get rid of it!
 - (2) The purpose of possessions is not to bolster your ego, but to honor the Lord.

- ii) **Give:** relinquish control of your resources to God. Jesus told him what to do with the money.

- (1) Giving isn’t giving if you decide where to give it. You are still the director.

- (2) Obey the Word, support the community of faith, help the needy, then give a free will offering.

- c) For many of us, money and possessions are not what binds us.
- d) If Jesus looked into your heart, what would He see that would keep you from being instantly obedient?
- e) **Scorecard:** What is more to you than the will of God?
 - i) Self: Belongings / money / job
 - ii) Pride: Status (Titles, positions)
 - iii) People – relationships that destroy or distract
 - iv) Places – I still have to love Tucson by faith

3) **Follow Jesus.**

- a) The call Jesus gave His disciples was consistent:
 - i) Take up **YOUR** cross (not His cross) and follow Him.
 - ii) This theme is constant in Scripture, yet not preached much these days, Luke 14:27, 33
- b) The point here was not to make the man poor. (Notice Matthew 19: 25-26) The point was to deal with that which held him back from following fully.
- c) **Scorecard:** What place of service are you unwilling to enter? Your cross is the one in front of you. Grab it! Hebrews 12:1
 - i) Job – are you demanding your perfect position or His? (He is looking for a place where you can be a blessing and an influence. What are you looking for?)
 - ii) Family – The only mission field that can see you all the time. Take up your role in your home!
 - iii) Community – God didn’t call us to insulate, but to invade. Salt is useless in the mine.
 - iv) Church – The engine that drives all the rest. What place are you unwilling to take in His Body, the visible Church, the one and only pillar and ground of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15