

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, June 10, 2018
Can I Talk to You Like Grown-ups?
6: Metrics for Maturity V

TEXT: 1 Peter 2:1-3 / Philippians 3:12-16

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, the love standard, and the key of letting go in order to move on. Last week we started work on the tongue. Today: Get a “progress, not perfection” attitude

1) Complete in Him

- a) Philippians 3:3-11 Paul was an impressive guy. Note verse 3: No confidence in the flesh:
- b) Maturity sees its value in Christ without appealing to natural accomplishments, family privilege, or social heritage. I am somebody because He is in me.
 - i) Colossians 3:22. Do what you do to please Him, not men.
 - ii) 1 Thess 2:3-6. / 2 Corinthians 5:9 NLT So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please Him.
- c) God is pleased with:
 - i) Titus 2:9 A submissive attitude
 - ii) Philippians 4:18 giving to the work of God
 - iii) Romans 8:8 Victory over sin
 - iv) Romans 14:17-18 righteousness, peace, and joy which the Holy Spirit gives.
- d) Paul was comfortable in his own skin before God and men:
 - i) Phil 3:8-9 To be found in Him not having my own righteousness.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 ...**by the grace of God I am what I am**
- e) **Scorecard:** Listen to your conversation. How much of what you talk about is you and your accomplishments? Who are you trying to impress?

2) No condemnation

- a) Maturity can forget the mistakes of the past and press on toward the future. Being able to acknowledge shortcomings without defensiveness or self-flagellation is a mark of great progress.
- b) 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 **PLEASE** learn the difference between godly sorrow and the condemnation of the devil.
 - i) Worldly sorrow produces death: it drives you away from God not to Him, and brings shame and fear
 - ii) Godly sorrow brings repentance: and a desire to change. Hebrews 12:11.
- c) Don't stay stuck in your failures. 1 John 1:7-10. When you get out of the light:
 - i) Confess: *homologeō* – agree with God about your sin.
 - ii) He is Faithful and Just
 - iii) He forgives **and** cleanses **all**.
- d) **Scorecard:** What old failures do you still replay in your mind? Are there behaviors and attitudes you know are wrong, but you have given up on changing? Are there things you want to do but your failures hold you back?

3) I have not arrived!

- a) Philippians 3:13-16 Notice three phrases:
 - i) Forgetting: to lose out of mind; by implication to **neglect**:
 - ii) Reaching forward: to **stretch** (oneself) forward upon
 - iii) Press toward: A causative) form of to flee: to **pursue**
- b) I have not arrived, but I will not stay broken down by the side of the spiritual road. Plan for growth:
 - i) **Neglect:** What do you need to lose out of your mind?
 - ii) **Stretch:** What are you doing to stretch yourself in your walk with the Lord?
 - iii) **Pursue:** What are you running toward?
- c) **Scorecard:** All of us who are mature should think in this same way. And if any of you think differently, God will make it clear to you. (Philippians 3:15) Are you thinking progress?