

Maturing in Christ

1 Corinthians 3.1-4

If I told you one of my heroes was Peter Pan, the boy who would never grow up, would this really be a surprise? Now that soccer season is here, I am able to coach the kids, teach them a great sport, and run with them. But recently, 3 things happened. My niece told me that I was not with it. Then the Shell Station, one of the clerks asked if my boys were my grandsons, and then in Flagstaff, the clerk at the store, older than I, stated that I had well behaved grandsons, so now my wife is my daughter. I have had to come to the realization I am maturing.

Yet, as we from time to time think about our maturing, growing up, growing older, do we think about it in context with our spiritual lives? Are we maturing in Christ? Are you more mature in the faith today than you when you first came to Christ? How do you know? There are two questions to answer: *READ*

1. *What is our Diet? (Starving, Fluff, or balanced)*

- a. Paul reminds them how they became Christians, as babies, fed with the milk, the basics of the faith. Christ died and we must repent and accept him. They should have moved from the milk to more solid foods, yet didn't.
- b. What about us? Are we still on the milk? One check is when you read your Bible, what do you read? When I was a young Christian, I read Bible stories. Now I read the rest, to see God's love through time, to see what God intended.
- c. To move beyond milk, we should have the desire to read, to study and to know more. Psalms 119 calls this honey, Jesus calls this the Bread, Hebrew Writer – Solid food. Peter in his letter calls it our milk. Whole Bible = balance. Which will in turn aid the second question:

2. *What is our Focus? (On ourselves or on Christ?)*

- a. Again the church was focused on worldly, the preachers and method instead of Savior and the message.
- b. Focus should be on loving God, loving your neighbor. Col 3.16 – Paul tells us how to talk with one another.
- c. Eph 4.13 – Paul's context is that the church is to help us to obtain to the fullness of Christ, meaning that we become like Christ.
- d. 1 Cor. 11.1 – Paul says follow him only as way of following Jesus – again focusing them upward.

When we have a balanced diet of the full Word, striving to know more, then we will be able to focus on Christ, loving God, allowing His love to flow through us to the world that is hurting, looking, but lost. It's not too late to become mature.

1 Corinthians 3.1-4

Brothers, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were not yet able to receive it. In fact, you are still not able, because you are still fleshly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and living like ordinary people? For whenever someone says, “I’m with Paul,” and another, “I’m with Apollos,” are you not typical men?

Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Col 3.16)

we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness. (Eph 4.13)

Be imitators of me, as I also am of Christ. (1 Cor 11.1)