



Sermon Notes

1Peter 1:22-2:3 "Stages of Maturity"

Maturity isn't age, appearance, achievement or academics. Maturity is an attitude like Christ (Phil2:5).

STAGES OF MATURITY:

INFANCY: 1Jn2:12—Little children...your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

- Unstable, self-centered, short attention span & gullible.
- Sensitive to criticism, insecure about what others think about them, repentance is difficult, failure is overwhelming & they perpetually question God's love & care for them.
- Intellectually have Christ as their Savior & Lord but experientially someone or something else is and therefore they have extreme highs and lows emotionally. 2Pet1:3-9

ADOLESCENCE: 1John 2:14b-Young men...you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- Know the difference between junk food, milk & solid food. Heb5:11-14
- Are less dependent upon others feeding you and learning to feed yourself. Ps1:1-3
- Are living a life of faith which is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted (God's Word) in spite of your changing moods. 2Cor5:7

FATHERHOOD: 1Jn 2:13-Fathers...you know him who is from the beginning.

- Knowing God & really communing with Him. John17:3
- Spiritual disciplines don't just heat up when the chips are down but are consistently fervent because you absolutely love the presence of God more than anything. Rom12:11
- This will involve times of intense wrestling with God for yourself and others progress and joy in the faith. 2Tim4:7; Gal4:19; Col4:12; 1Cor4:14-16.

STRATEGIES OF MATURITY: Holy Spirit (1Pet1:23) + Spiritual disciplines (1Pet2:2) + Fiery trials (1Pet1:7) = Spiritual growth & maturity (Matt 4:1-11)

Growing Notes

1) Why do you think maturity isn't age, appearance, achievement or academics? How is maturity an attitude like Christ (Phil2:5)? Attitude is a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior. Why do you think it's not what happens TO us but IN us (attitude) that either makes us or breaks us in fiery trials?

2) Read 1Peter 1:22-2:3 & 1John 2:12-14. What stands out to you from these two texts as it relates to spiritual growth and maturity? Review the characteristics of Infancy from the sermon notes. Which one(s) most resonate with you? How would knowing that "your sins are forgiven for His name sake" not just intellectually but experientially produce spiritual growth & maturity (2Peter1:3-9)?

3) Review the characteristics of how you know you're moving from Infancy to Adolescence. Which one(s) most resonate with you? Explain. What's the difference between junk food, milk & solid food (Heb5:11-14) and what does it mean to be a self feeder spiritually (Ps1:1-3)? What is living by faith & not by sight (2Cor5:7)?

4) Review the characteristics of spiritual Fatherhood along with scripture references. Why should this be something that every Christian should aspire to? What are the Strategies for Maturity? How do we see these strategies lived out in Christ (Matt4:1-11)? What are next steps to growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ that you can begin to take in the coming weeks? Pray that db is a place where people grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2Peter 3:18).