

NCC Life Group Devotional

Read—Ephesians 4

Maturity in Christ

The process of becoming mature in Christ begins at the time you accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. And it is a process that is not complete until you reach Heaven. Paul lays out very clearly what it looks like to be immature as well as the path to maturity. Verse 14 is the most vivid portrayal of immaturity. If you are not grounded the truths of God's Word, you are easily "*tossed back and forth by the waves*" without any clear convictions.

Lack of conformity to the Truth will harden your heart, make you ignorant and allow futile thinking to control your life. Your life will become empty and without purpose. Even as seekers, it is easy to allow a slow fade to creep into habits and thoughts that draw us away from God. As this happens, you begin to slip out from under His control and into your worldly way of thinking. Each day has to be an intentional process to live by God's viewpoint and not the world's.

So how do you move toward maturity? You start with God's Word first and foremost. Psalm 1:2 tells us to "*delight in the law of the Lord*" and to meditate on His Word day and night. 1 Corinthians 15:2 demands that we "*hold firmly to the word.*" As you immerse yourself in God's Word daily, you will begin to renew your mind by developing new habits and thought patterns that conform to His Truths. Everything else will begin to be uncomfortable. You will, then, be equipping yourself to take the steps of obedience that really allows you to experience God's fullness and become more like Him.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:21 that we were taught "*with the truth that is in Jesus.*" These Truths will help put off our old ways and be made new. These Truths and only these Truths will do that. God alone is your sole source. As we humbly surrender to His will, we submit ourselves under the only Authority that matters. Hebrews 4:12 states boldly the power of that Authority. "*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*"

Group Discussion

1. Describe a time when a Scripture truly cut so deep that you had to act and do so immediately.
2. Are you content to go days without feeding on God's Word? If so, why do you think that is?
3. What are the marks of spiritual maturity?
4. Discuss ways you've recently encouraged another believer in their Walk and what the body should be doing to help others reach maturity.
5. We are called in Ephesians 4:24 to pursue righteousness and holiness. What does that look like in day to day living?
6. What characteristics are evidence of Christian Growth?
7. What is the difference between spiritual maturity and immaturity?

Additional Scriptures

1. Colossians 1:21-23
2. Philippians 1:6
3. James 1:3-5
4. Philippians 4:12-16
5. 1 Peter 2:2
6. 1 Timothy 4:7