

RCMI L-Path Teaching

March 05, 2023

Title: **Maturity is the Goal**

Big Idea: **The primary goal of the church must be unity & maturity in faith. Therefore, all activities and efforts must be geared towards this intention.**

Text: **Ephesians 4:11-16**

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Introduction:

- Sunday Theme: Time to Grow Up!
- Big Idea: This series is a call for every Christian to grow and mature in various aspects of his life.
- This aligns to one of our 2023 Declarations (Year of the Quickening Spirit)
 - **Year of the Mature Sons**
 - Romans 8:19, "All creation is groaning for our 'mature' sons to be revealed."
 - God tells His children, "It is time to grow up!" We are expected to reflect the nature of Jesus Christ. We are not called to remain the same person we once were. A mature Christian allows the Holy Spirit to teach Him and direct him by feeding on the Word of God. Be willing to be discipled and to be equipped for every good work.
- Maturity is something someone needs to decide. He or she needs to make it a goal.
- Maturity does not happen automatically. There are processes that will help people to mature.

People that will help us mature

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers.

- **They are God's gift to the church.**
- We need people to help us mature
- **Maturity will not happen by ourselves, but with people God has given to care for us.**
- We need to value God's gift to the church by submitting to them.

The Cycle of Maturity

12 to **equip** his people for **works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be **built up**

1. Equipping

- a. v12 to **equip** his people
- b. Being teachable is important
- c. Christian maturity starts with an openness to learn.
- d. We need to commit our self to be teachable.

2. Service

- a. v12 to equip his people for **works of service**
- b. Works of service is application of what we learned.
- c. Matured Christians make themselves available to do the ministry.
- d. The **ministry** is not a specialized occupation limited to men with professional training. The word simply means **service**. It includes every form of spiritual service. And everyone of us has a part.

3. Build up

- a. v12 to equip his people for works of service, so that **the body of Christ may be built up**
- b. To be built up is to be strengthened.
- c. **Another meaning of built up is to consolidate** (pagsama-samahin). That is why we are called congregation, gathering of God's people.
- d. As we do the service, more people will come to the church.

One note is, this Cycle of Maturity is never ending.

Maturity is for EVERYONE

¹³ **until we all** reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- Maturity is attained not only individually but collectively
- The goal of maturity is for everyone to grow!

Standard of Christian Maturity

¹³ **until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

- **Christ is the goal!**
- He is the aim and object of our growth, and the reason in all things.
- Christ is the Christian standard of Maturity. To be able to attain the whole measure of His fullness. (not pastors, leaders, etc)
 - 2 Peter 1:3-8 - 3 His divine power has given us **everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through **them you may participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 **For if you possess these qualities in increasing**

measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dangers of being Immature

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

- The problem of Christianity is people wants to stay infant, , **nēpios**... child, childish, immature
- **Immaturity leads to compromise**
 - Some Christians sacrifice their faith.
 - They are easily swayed by fads, peer pressure, appealing fantasy.
 - They easily see what they want instead of what God wants.
- **Immaturity leads to deception**
 - If people don't have enough understanding of the Word of God, they get easily deceived.
 - People lacks discernment of what is good and evil.
 - There are several schemes that seems to be Biblical but are wrong.
 - Deception will lead us away from Christ.

2 Key Components of Maturity

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

- **Truth**
 - This is the element in which we are to live, move, and have our being.
 - Our Christian maturity should be grounded in the truth of the Word of God.
 - There can be no compromise as to the fundamentals of the faith.
- **Love**
 - Truth is not enough; there must be a right spirit. Speaking the truth in love.
 - Truth spoken harshly are not good tidings. It is often misinterpreted.
 - Truth without love is brutality – Warren Wiersbe
- **Truth must be inseparable with love.**

Call to action (Conclusion)

¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as **each part does its work.**

- **Christian Maturity is done together.**
- We all have a part in the Body of Christ.
- This year, there is a calling for the Mature Sons of God
 - **“It is time to grow up!”** We are expected to reflect the nature of Jesus Christ. We are not called to remain the same person we once were.
- Maturity is the goal.
 - A mature Christian allows the Holy Spirit to teach Him and direct him by feeding on the Word of God. **Be willing to be discipled and to be equipped for every good work.**
- Let us grow collectively, as one Body of Christ.

Discussion:

1. What is your biggest challenge to grow and mature as a Christian?
2. How can the church help you?
3. As a mature Christian, what else can you commit this year to the work of God?