

## RCMI L-Path Teaching

March 19, 2023

Title: **Journey to Maturity**

Text: **Ephesians 4:11-14 (NIV)**

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that **the body of Christ may be built up** 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. 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.”

- **Mature: “téleios” – fully grown, complete**

Romans 8:29 (NIV)

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

- **Infant: “nēpios”**

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Child was born, a Son was given, the government was on His shoulders.”

Luke 2:52 (NIV)

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

- **Grew/Increase = “prokopto” – to beat forward; lengthen by hammering, significant effort to advance**

- **Stature = mature – fully aged; prime age**

Luke 3:22 (NIV)

and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

- **Son = “huios” - fully grown; same nature as the Father**

Romans 8:14 (NIV)

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

Hebrews 12:8 (NIV)

If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline —then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

- **“Nothos” – bastard, illegitimate.**

## **CHARACTER OF A MATURED SON:**

### **1. Sons Carry the DNA.**

1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

“For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.”

### **2. Sons Know the Authority of the Kingdom.**

### **3. Sons Reflect.**

John 14:7 (NIV)

“If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

### **4. Sons Represent.**

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

Philippians 2:19-22 (NIV)

“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”

### **5. Sons Reproduce.**

Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)

Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

**6. Sons Become “Fathers” (Spiritual parents).**

John 20:21 (NIV)

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”