

Sermon Notes – August 2, 2015, Pastor Alan Smith

“Time to Grow Up”

Have you ever observed children argue or have a fight with each other? I’m going to tell a story on my girls. My oldest Kate used to take her finger and get it as close as she could without actually touching her sister. Stef would cry out quit touching me! Mom she’s touching me! Joni would say Kate quit touching her. Kate’s response was but I’m not touching her.

Silly little argument isn’t it?

Children have those arguments because they are immature. I have to tell you that Kate and Stef have grown up and have become very close.

I want us to look at being spiritually mature.

Ephesians 4:13–15 (NLT) — 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

To be like Christ should be our goal. It is when we have the characteristics of Jesus we become mature.

Colossians 2:6–7 (NLT) — 6 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

What does spiritual maturity look like?

1 Corinthians 14:20 (NLT) — 20 Dear brothers and sisters, don’t be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind.

Ephesians 1:17–18 (NLT) — 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. 18 I

pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

We see that we grow in the knowledge of God. We were never meant to become a Christian then stop there. No we need to increase in our knowledge of God. That one of the things that shows we are becoming spiritual mature.

The next sign of spiritual maturity is we are able to discern God's will and change our behavior.

Romans 12:2 (NLT) — 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

We need to let God transform us. Changing the way we think. When our thinking process changes then we will be able to know what God's will is for us.

Colossians 1:9–10 (NLT) — 9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

As we grow in spiritual wisdom we will change our actions and the way we live so we can please Him. Our lives will produce good fruit. What is that fruit?

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) — 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

When we become spiritually mature these things will be in our lives.

Another trait of spiritual maturity is caring for someone that is weak in their faith.

Romans 15:1 (NLT) — 1 We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves.

Galatians 6:2 (NLT) —2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

Hear the words of being considerate, not just pleasing ourselves, share burdens.

Those that are spiritually mature think of others and not about themselves.

It should be the goal of every Christian to become spiritually mature,

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NLT) — 1 Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

Philippians 3:13–15 (NLT) — 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. 15 Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

Paul talks about pressing on and that we need to work hard toward complete holiness. In my house it seems to be the year of the 5 K race. Joni and Stef are participating in 4-5 races this year. When they go out to exercise they make sure they run part of the route. In other words they are training to do a 5 K race. Reaching the goal of spiritual maturity takes work. Prayer, study and meditation and also a willingness to change. This process is initiated by God.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) — 6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

It is God that will give us the strength and guidance to becoming a mature Christian.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NLT) — 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

It's God's word that equips, prepares, and teaches us. To do every good work.