

Attitudes of Maturity

01-30-22

When we have small children, we often must go through different levels of discipline based on their maturity. For example, when a small child enters the kitchen and reaches for the stove burner, we may swap away their hand to prevent them from being burned. They may learn then not to reach for it because of the punishment they might receive. As they get older, we can explain to them that the stove burner can cause them injury. When they are even older still they may begin to understand that many things can be hot and cause injury, applying critical thinking skills to the cause and effect.

Spiritual maturity is not so different. We are called to grow ourselves in the mind of Christ, and often this is a movement of maturity from simply avoiding punishment to truly understanding the implications of behavior.

1. Its about me; I don't want to suffer or be punished
2. Its about God; I want to please Him
3. It is about God's people; That is where I can find God

How can we apply this mind of maturity to a self-examination for application? Consider these different ways to view our behavior, and then we must ask ourselves: "where in this process are we, and where do we need to be moving"?

Maturity and Purpose

1. I do not want to go to hell - Mark 9:43-44
2. I want to go to heaven - Ephesians 1:18
- 3 I want to please God - 2 Corinthians 5:14

Maturity and Sin

1. Sinning condemns me - John 5:14
2. Causing someone else to sin is bad - Matthew 18:7
3. What does God want me to do? - Ephesians 5:10

Maturity and Assembly

1. I go to church to take the Lord's Supper - Acts 20:7
2. I go to worship God - John 9:31
3. I go to encourage other Christians - Hebrews 10:24-25

Maturity and Choices

1. My choices have consequences - Romans 6:23
2. My choices have unforeseen consequences - 1 Corinthians 7:16
3. My choices have consequences for others - 1 Corinthians 8:12-13

Maturity and Understanding

1. I study the Bible because I am told to - 2 Timothy 2:15
2. I study the Bible because I want to - 1 Peter 2:2
3. I study the Bible because I need to - Acts 5:20

There are many different lists like this we can put together that aid in measuring our maturity. Where are you at in your spiritual growth? We need to labor to expand our spirituality, and we need to accept that there is more to grow. All of us need to better ourselves in serving God.