

# Going on to Maturity 6

A study about Christian maturity and what it looks like.

This is the last week in the series which will deal with general principles of Christian Maturity. As such it is about finishing some more of the ground work upon which we can put up some of the specific issues that relate to being a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## Introduction

It maybe a little cliché, but the old picture of the Christian fish swimming a different direction to everybody else is something we must embrace if we wish to grow as a Christian. The reality of following Jesus is that it is completely counter cultural and no more so than in the issue we are looking at in this study. The place of “me” in the scheme of things.

## To begin

1. Take a moment in your group to discuss what you see as the world’s view of the “self”.
2. What evidence do you see or hear that confirms this viewpoint.

What is the Christian perspective on the self.

*Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.*

1. Do you think the statement “you are not your own” stands in opposition to the world’s view of self?
2. How do you personally respond to this statement?
3. The passage talks about sexual morality to illustrate this point, but it could easily apply to other human behaviour. What are some of the other areas of life where a Christian could apply the principle, “you are not your own”?

4. Why do you think it may be important to embrace this principle?

In kiwi culture at least there is a strong drive to consider ourselves the masters of our own destiny and this can be carried into our Christian life. However, if we take it seriously that Jesus is now our Lord and we are his servants, then our lives surely become part of his plan and not ours.

*Read Esther 4:13-17* and consider how God’s blessing was not for Esthers benefit.

1. Verse 14 highlights both divine appointment and free will. Does this verse help to explain the reason behind the principle?
2. Esther made a good decision in the end. What issues did she have to face? Are these similar to the issues people today might face in similar situations?

(Interestingly she had to be prepared to lose everything to fulfill the purpose of God, and yet in this instance she didn’t need to. We will probably find that sometimes it is to our detriment and sometimes to our gain to be used by God in the situations we find ourselves in.)

*Read Galatians 2:19,20 / 2 Corinthians 5:14-18*

His is the basis of the Christian understanding of self.

1. What do you think he means by being crucified with Christ.
2. What do you think being ‘crucified with Christ’ looks like on a daily basis?
3. What do you think it means that Christ is alive in me?

*Read John 5:30; 6:38, Matthew 26:39 and Philipians 2:5-12.*

Jesus of course told us that if we want to follow him we must deny self. Fortunately he never asks us to go somewhere he is not prepared to go himself!

1. Could you say what Jesus said?
2. What is your next step?

Conclude the study praying for one another and helping each other with the next step.