

Musselburgh Baptist Church
Oaks of Righteousness
Growing Others

Going on to Maturity

A study about the importance of Christian Maturity and what it looks like in practical terms.

INTRODUCTION

For every living thing on this planet, becoming mature is everything. Only mature life forms can reproduce, and so the natural process works towards this because without reproduction, the species will die out. Maturity in the spiritual realm is similarly as important, but not necessarily as natural.

It is because of this issue we have designed the following series of studies is to help us look at what it means to be mature and explore in some depth what that looks like in both our personal lives and that of the Church. In traditional Church terminology this is called sanctification

STUDY ONE

Getting an eye on the goal.

This first study looks at a single piece of scripture that picks up some of Paul's concern about the lifestyles of the Christians in the city of Ephesus where he had been teaching them for three years. It is obvious that there was some growing up to do. We pick up the story in the fourth chapter.

Read Ephesians 4:11-32

This passage is significant because it highlights both the importance of maturity and what it looks like by contrasting the lifestyles of those who are mature with those who are not. The following questions relate to the passage and ask you to consider that maturity in this context is not just about the individual but the whole community of the Church.

Look at verses 11-16

1. What are the goals that Paul has for the Church and its people?
2. Why is maturity/perfection important according to this passage?
3. How are these goals achieved? Look carefully at whom is responsible for what. Where does personal responsibility come into this?

To understand this passage more it is helpful to grasp that the word "mature", "perfect", "complete" or "finished" is from the same Greek word "τελειος" (teleios) which essentially carries the idea of "complete, lacking nothing, all it is meant to be". It should also be noted that most often it should be read as a present participle which gives the idea of process, that is, *"being completed" being made perfect" of becoming mature"*

1. Considering the further dimensions of the word, does this help you understand the passage?
2. What do you think it means to be mature or complete or perfect?

