

Plan for Christian Maturity

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I. Introduction.

- A. Christian maturity is the greatest problem in the church today.
- B. The problem is in our own hearts.
- C. There is a plan for maturity.

II. We must yield ourselves as instruments to righteousness. (Romans 6:11)

- A. An instrument is a tool.
- B. We are to see ourselves as a heavenly tool or implement. The value of a tool is the control one has over it to use.

III. We start with people who have been alienated and are enemies of God. (Colossians 1:28)

IV. If we continue in the faith we must continue to maturity.

- A. It is a process of going on.
- B. Paul's ministry was to complete the work of God in the lives of those he ministered to.

IV. The goal is to present every man mature in Jesus Christ.

- A. Maturity is growing, which is the normal Christian life.
- B. Warning in the gospel and teaching in the Scriptures are key to growth.
 1. Paul began by warning people that they began as enemies of God.
 2. All should be taught the word of God, but it should be related to the house of God.
 3. Paul's Bible program was geared toward maturity which involves wisdom not mere knowledge of facts.
 4. Paul did not preach a doctrine or an ethic but a person--Jesus Christ.
 5. We are instruments of Christ. Instruments have no responsibility.

Application questions:

1. Why is it difficult sometimes to encourage maturity among Christians?

2. How would you explain the importance of maturity to a Christian group?

3. How can a Christian grow? Explain.
