

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - January 6, 2022**

**Prepared & Presented By: Pastor James G. Austin, Jr. PhD, D.Min.**

**Title: "Maturing In Christ"**

**Scripture Passage: Romans 12:2**

**"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."**

**Something To Think About:**

What are some similarities between physical and spiritual development?

**I. Introduction**

A. This study session has been designed to be very interactive and will therefore require you to read various biblical passages, and then interact with the passage, followed by you recording a response, based on information in the passage.

B. As you read and interact with the passages, ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate your mind so that you may gain a clearer understanding of what God requires and desires of you. So, let's get started. Space has been left for you to record your responses after each question posed below.

**II. Moving Toward Maturity**

A. You took your first step toward spiritual maturity when you initially put your faith in Christ. Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

1. What is God's desire for you? Verses 13,15 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are some characteristics of immature Christians ("children" or "infants")? Verse 14

3. According to this passage, what are some characteristics of a spiritually mature person?

B. Contrast a persons old nature with the Christian's new nature.  
Ephesians 4:22-24

| OLD NATURE | NEW NATURE |
|------------|------------|
| _____      | _____      |
| _____      | _____      |
| _____      | _____      |

C. Consider 2 Corinthians 3:18

1. Into whose image are you being changed?
2. Who brings about this change?
3. How rapidly do you think change usually occurs?
4. How complete will the change finally be?

D. What do the following Verses in Romans tell you about your relationship to Christ?

1. What has already happened to you? Romans 5:8,9
2. What should you be doing now? Romans 6:19

3. What can you expect in the future? Romans 8:16-18

### III. Three Things You Have in Christ

A. The following three aspects of salvation in Christ (justification, sanctification, glorification) are helpful in understanding God's plan for you as a believer.

|                       |  |                                       |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Justification</b>  | Past tense - I have been saved from the penalty of sin.  | My position is in Christ              |
| <b>Sanctification</b> | Present tense - I am being saved from the Power of sin.  | My condition is becoming like Christ. |
| <b>Glorification</b>  | Future tense - I will be saved from the presence of sin. | My expectation is to be like Christ.  |

### IV. Your Starting Point

A. Examine Colossians 2:6,7

1. How did you begin your life in Christ?

2. How should you continue to grow?

B. Consider Romans 5:1-5. What foundation do we have for building a close relationship with God?

C. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and list several things that you have "in Christ."

Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Verse \_\_\_\_\_

D. Which of these is most important to you? Why?

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**V. The Process of Growth**

A. What observations do you have about the process of spiritual

growth from the following passages?

1. 1 Peter 2:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Hebrews 5:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Where do good works fit in the Christian life? **Eph. 2:8-10**

C. As you reflect on your life, be thankful for all that God is doing in and through you. Take a moment to express your gratitude to God for what He has done, is doing, and will do for you.

D. Our outer person is merely God's frame - the real picture is the inner person that God, the Master Artist, is still perfecting.

## **VI. The Mature Life**

A. Who is the Christian's ultimate example? Ephesians 5:1-2

1. To what extent do you think a Christian can and should imitate Christ's lifestyle?

B. What attitude should a mature Christian possess?

Philippians 3:13-15

C. What are some character traits of a mature Christian?

2 Peter 1:5-7

1. Describe a person without these traits? 2 Peter 1:8-11

D. What impressed you most from this Bible Study?

## VII. Summary

- A. **Moving Toward Maturity** - God intends for Christians to mature and become like Jesus Christ. God has saved Christians from the penalty of sin. They are presently engaged in a conflict with sin, but can anticipate a future with Christ, completely free from sin.
- B. **Your Starting Point** - Faith in Jesus Christ marks the beginning of Christian growth. The believer has God's resources available to help him or her to grow.
- C. **The Process of Growth** - Spiritual growth is similar to physical growth. It takes time as God works in the believer's life.
- D. **The Mature Life** - Growing in Christ is similar to walking. Following Christ's example and being led by the Holy Spirit, Christians are to walk in fellowship with Christ, in faith and love.

**Point:** A mature Christian is one who continues to follow Christ, abounding in His work and experiencing His grace and love.

I pray that you have been blessed after interacting with this lesson and please remember, for a Christian, Spiritual Growth is NOT an option.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin