

THE MARKS OF A MATURE PERSON

Discipleship – being disciplined ...*Heb 6:1 Let us go on to maturity*

WHAT MATURITY ISN'T:

- * It's not: Age
- * It's not: Appearance
- * It's not: accomplishments
- * It's not: academics

God says maturity is determined by: **ATTITUDE**. How will we react in situations?

5 MARKS OF MATURITY

1. A MATURE PERSON IS Positive under pressure

"Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance" James 1:2-3

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial (pressure), because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12

- **The 'crown of life'** represents the Mind of Christ. You can be encouraged knowing that by going thru the trial, God is transforming your mind by His word.

2. A MATURE PERSON IS Sensitive to people

"My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism." James 2:1
People tend to put others on a pedestal because of their accomplishments. But Jesus chose simpletons, sinners and outcasts to serve Him and follow Him.

3. A MATURE PERSON HAS Mastered His/Her Mouth ...See James 3:3

- God wants to put His Word in our mouth!

"Do not let any negative talk come out of your mouth but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs ..." Eph. 4:29

- Gossip is not on the straight & narrow. Get off that road now!

4. A MATURE PERSON IS A Peacemaker NOT A Troublemaker

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" James 4:1 ...*"How come he gets to and I don't?!"*

- Let's talk about "Revenge"

Read Mathew 5:38-41 "if some steals your cloak..." Suing people feeds on a spirit of revenge. The truth is we own nothing. God's people share their wealth, not fight to get back what was stolen. The only thing you should be fighting to get back is God's righteousness, peace and joy.

5. A MATURE PERSON IS Patient and Prayerful

- *"Be patient then, brothers, until the Lord's coming ... As you know, we consider blessed those who persevere."* James 5:7,11
- Have you ever heard the kids screaming in the car, "Are we there yet?" Does that question help speed things up? No. In God's kingdom, we trust Him in His timing for our lives.