

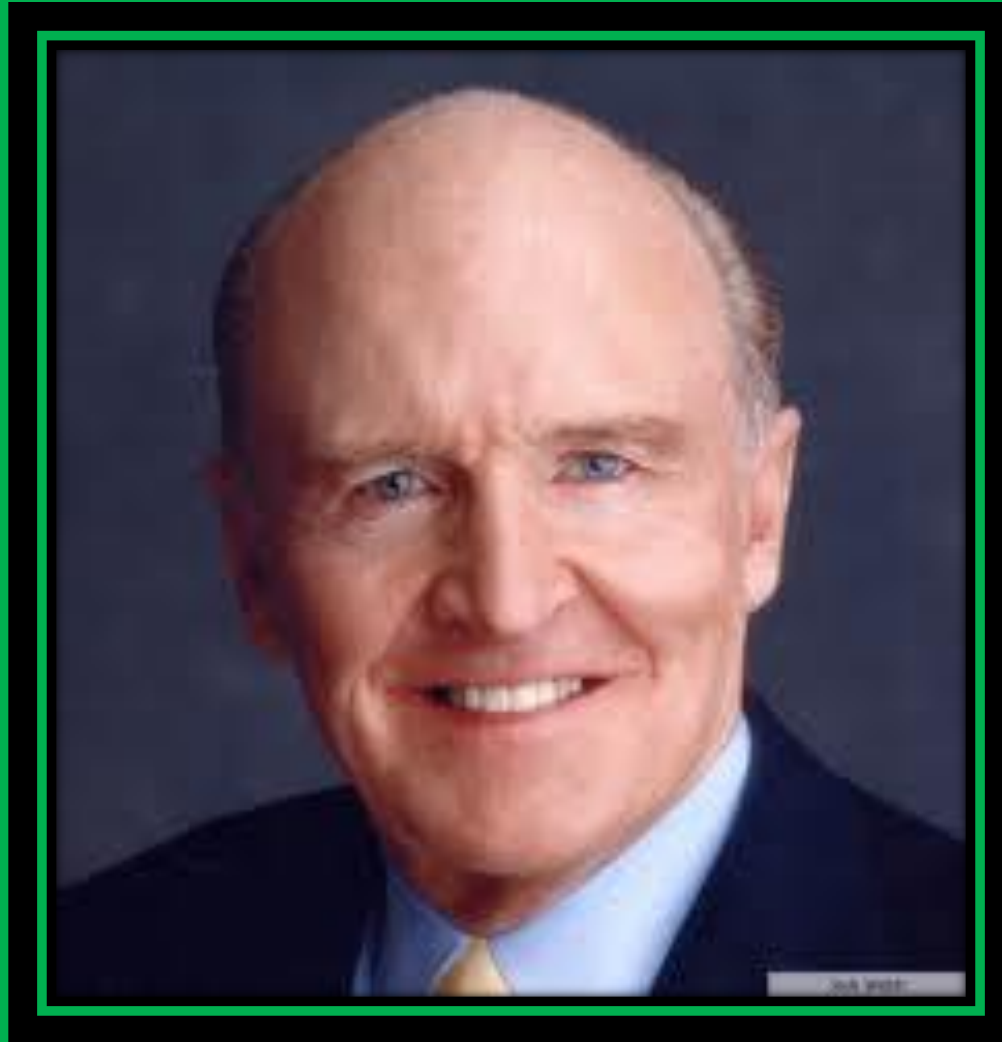
Grow Up!

A Study in Christian Maturity

Are You a Baby Christian?



Or a Mature Adult?



Or a Teenager?



How Mature Are You?

- **It has nothing to do with appearance**
- **It has nothing to do with position**
- **It has nothing to do with what you think of you**
- **It has little to do with age (Elihu vs. friends)**
- **It has everything to do with your actions**

What Is Maturity?

- **Complete growth or development**
- **The powers of body and mind fully developed**
- **Personal qualities fully developed or ripened**
- **The state of being complete, perfect, or ready**
- **Growth and development to full potential**

What Is Christian Maturity?

- **Self-discipline to rule spirit and resist lusts**
- **Knowledge of truth for you and others**
- **Wisdom to do what is right in any situation**
- **Patience to joyfully endure temptations or trials**
- **Responsibility to consider and help others**

What Is Christian Maturity?

Conformed to the image of Jesus Christ

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- **Ordinary wisdom and stature as a man**
- **Spiritual maturity pleasing God and men**

Maturity Is Our Goal

The Bible, pastors, the church, and parents are to help you grow up to be a mature Christian.

Many Christians live and die as children in the sight of God and good men ... *a disgrace of grace!*

Are you growing to maturity?

Are you an adult Christian in the sight of God?

Maturity Is Our Goal

Your personal goal should be the most mature Christian possible for God and others.

Our goal as a church should be the most mature Christians possible for a testimony.

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Maturity is how far you can separate the two!

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Maturity is how far you can separate the two!

A crying infant compared to George Washington as president is a good mental picture for help!

How Can I Measure My Maturity?

- **It is not what you think of yourself.**
- **The immature often think they are mature!**
- **The mature often think they are immature!**
- **How esteemed are you by all family members?**
- **Do all godly persons love and esteem you?**

How to Measure My Maturity?

- **It is not what you think of yourself.**
- **Mature men or women will be openly exalted.**
- **Family sees the real you – what do they think?**
- **Of course, scripture is the acid test of maturity**
- **But only others can objectively judge you**

Measuring Christian Maturity

- **Average your biological and Christian ages**
- **A 60-year-old man converted 20 years is 40!**
- **Is he a solid 40-year-old in Christian duties?**
- **Or is he like a 14-year-old in some things?**
- **Elihu was 60 years mature at the age of 30!**

Maturity Is Our Goal

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Eph 4:13-15).

God Commands It

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, **quit you like men, be strong” (I Cor 16:13).**

“But **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen” (II Pet 3:18).**

Wise Men Grow

“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels” (Prov 1:5).

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning” (Prov 9:9).

“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end” (Pr 19:20).

You Must Advance

“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb 5:12-14).

Consider Hebrews 5:12-14

- **Paul assumed a rate of growth for Christians!**
- **Believers should go from student to teacher!**
- **Staying the same is to remain a baby!**
- **Maturity comes by exercising your senses!**
- **It requires a choice and effort by each saint!**

You Cannot Rest

“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God” (Phil 1:9-11).

You Cannot Rest

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would **abound more and more”
(1 Thess 4:1).**

Grow by Putting Away and Feeding

“Wherefore **laying aside** all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

As newborn babes, **desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”

I Peter 2:1-3

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Troublemaker or Peacemaker?

- **Do you cause fusses like a child or teenager?**
- **Or do you work hard to put everyone at peace?**
- **Immaturity causes some to be busybodies**
- **Maturity leads others to build up the body**
- **See I Corinthians 3:1-3 and Proverbs 19:11.**

Matters of Liberty?

- **Do you love the wide freedom God gave us?**
- **Or do you like to advertise your opinions?**
- **Grown Christians gladly allow others' liberties**
- **They know God does not care, and they love**
- **See Romans 14:1-6 and I Corinthians 8:1-8.**

What About Feelings?

- **Do feelings/moods/thoughts often rule you?**
- **Or do you rule feelings/moods/thoughts?**
- **Growing up means feelings/moods are silly**
- **Only children get overwhelmed by them**
- **See Proverbs 16:32; 25:28 and II Cor 4:8-10.**

Are You a Baby Christian?



Do You See Big or Small?

- **Growing up allows for lots of imperfection**
- **The overall goal or intent trumps the details**
- **But the childish will pick on a single word!**
- **Though they could not teach for a \$million!**
- **See II Samuel 1:17-27 and Isaiah 29:20-21.**

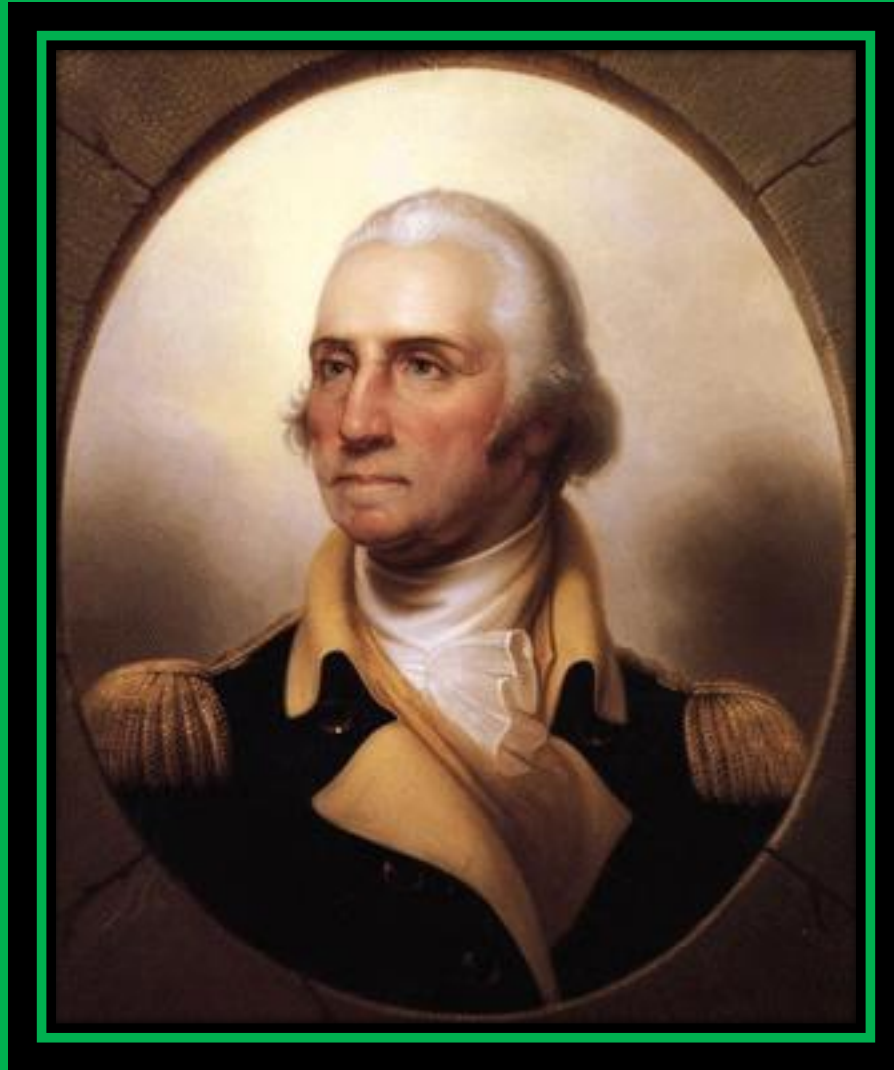
Motes or Beams?

- **Immature Christians look for others' motes**
- **Though they have beams blocking their vision**
- **They will fault you and others for nothing**
- **While full of dysfunction visible to all**
- **See Matthew 7:1-5 and Isaiah 29:20-21.**

Group or Self?

- **Do you value the group over your interests?**
- **Like family ... or church ... or youth group?**
- **Mature Christians sacrifice for the group**
- **Immature ones honor themselves instead**
- **See Ephesians 5:21 and Philippians 2:3-4.**

Or a Mature Adult?



Priorities?

- **Do you have spiritual things firmly first in life?**
- **Maturity values quality over quantity usually**
- **Do you earn, learn, and save before spending?**
- **Are righteous relationships true in your life?**
- **See priorities study: <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/priorities2.pdf>.**

Stability?

- **Immaturity causes change and inconsistency**
- **Maturity is stable and continues/perseveres**
- **Are you the same every day and every year?**
- **Can others count on your spirit, words, deeds?**
- **See John 8:31; Colossians 1:23; and Prov 25:13.**

Time?

- **Redeeming time is wisdom and maturity.**
- **Retired and unemployed must be very careful.**
- **Less to do leads to wandering from duties.**
- **Mature men are conscious of productivity.**
- **See Ephesians 5:16 and Ecclesiastes 9:10.**

Or a Teenager?



Other Oriented?

- **Immaturity is definitely selfish.**
- **Maturity leads to thinking more about others.**
- **Do you have Jesus, others, and you in order?**
- **Or are your plans, habits, and comfort key?**
- **See Philippians 2:3-4 and Matthew 22:37-40.**

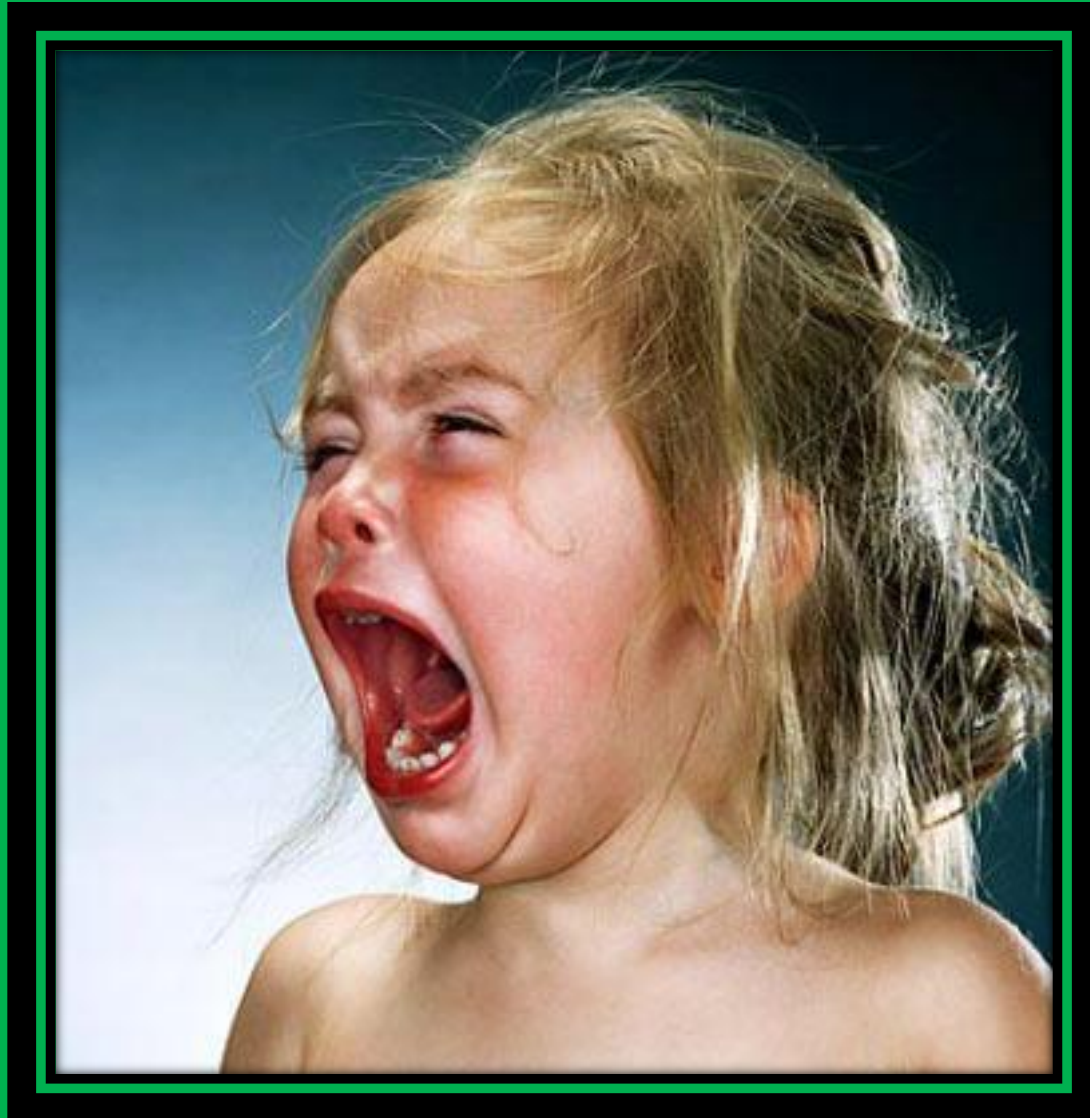
High Maintenance?

- **Children need lots of care ... and demand it**
- **Adults learn to care for themselves and give it**
- **High maintenance = needy for attention**
- **Mature Christians give attention, not seek it**
- **See II Corinthians 12:14-15.**

Self-Initiative?

- **Children need to be told what to do ... often!**
- **Maturity leads a person to do what is needed**
- **Teenagers notoriously miss the obvious**
- **If you need reminders, why?**
- **See Ecclesiastes 9:10 and Proverbs 6:6-11.**

Are You a Baby Christian?



Christ-Centered Everything?

- **Mature Christians are Christ-centered saints**
- **Does your conversation gravitate to Christ?**
- **Immature Christians are still in love with life**
- **They are belly worshippers by minding earth**
- **See Philippians 3:17-21 and I John 2:15-17.**

Forgive and Forget?

- **Mature Christians love to forgive others**
- **Childish ones hold grudges for future use**
- **Mature friends never repeat a fault (Pr 17:9).**
- **Back-kissing and kindness mark real adults.**
- **See Ephesians 4:31-32 and Colossians 3:12-15.**

Which Is Maturity?

- **Talks about self ... or inquires about others?**
- **Sits in church like dead ... or gloriously active?**
- **Long-term perspective ... or short-term view?**
- **Discouraged by adversity ... or unmoved?**
- **Temperate and moderate ... or undisciplined?**

Which Is Maturity?

- **Concerned about giving ... concerned to get?**
- **Own feelings key ... others' more important?**
- **Tree of life to others ... or cumbering ground?**
- **Envious like Saul ... or magnanimous like David**
- **Lets life happen ... takes life by the horns**

Or a Mature Adult?



How Can I Grow Up?

- **Identify faults by scripture (Jas 1:21-25; I Pet 2:1-3)**
- **Identify faults by truly measuring your reputation**
- **Ask God to help examine and search your life.**
- **Humbly confess your faults to God (Pr 28:13).**
- **Get outside yourself and exalt duty to God.**

How Can I Grow Up?

- **Copy those with confirming honor (Phil 3:17).**
- **Learn and follow scripture in all aspects of life.**
- **Replace foolish friends with wise (Pr 13:20).**
- **Replace foolishness with sobriety (Titus 2:6).**
- **Stop joking and start thanking (Eph 5:3-5).**

How Can I Grow Up?

- **Get serious about every part of your life.**
- **Hate anything that distracts from your duties.**
- **Do not do anything unless it is meaningful.**
- **Do every meaningful thing with your might!**
- **Growth is your responsibility, not anyone else!**

How Can I Grow Up?

Take the time to review the sermons on the following page.

For Further Study

- <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/boys-to-men.pdf>
- <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/growing-up-in-christ.pdf>
- <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/grow-in-grace.pdf>
- <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/heart-of-david.pdf>
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