

# **Men Growing Up**

**Princes, Pillars, Patriarchs**

# **The Goal: Luke 2:52**

- **And Jesus increased in wisdom ...**
- **and stature ...**
- **And in favour with God ...**
- **And man.**

# **The Goal: 1 Samuel 2:26**

- **And the child Samuel grew on ...**
- **And was in favour ...**
- **Both with the LORD ...**
- **And also with men.**

# **The Goal: Proverbs 3:34**

- **So shalt thou find ...**
- **Favour and good understanding ...**
- **In the sight of God ...**
- **And man.**

# The Goal: Ephesians 4:13-15

**13** 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:**

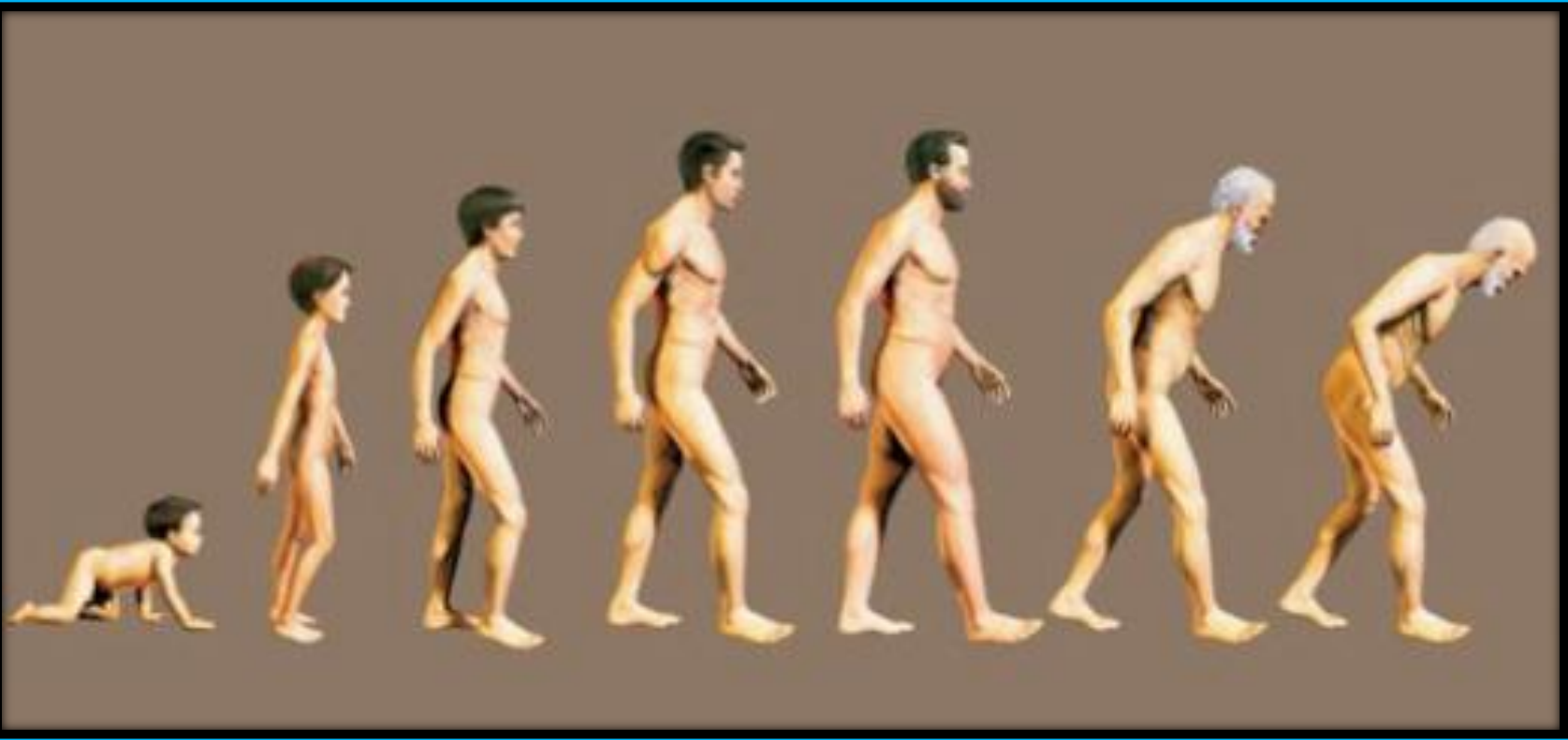
**14** That we henceforth be **no more children**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**15** But speaking the truth in love, may **grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, even Christ:

# **The Goal: I Corinthians 16:13**

- **Watch ye ...**
- **Stand fast in the faith ...**
- **Quit you like men ...**
- **Be strong.**

# You Cannot Change This



# **You Cannot Change Physical Growth**

- **Male puberty occurs somewhere around 14 give or take.**
- **You cannot start it earlier or keep youthful powers longer.**
- **Your testosterone level peaks at 19 and declines 2%/yr.**
- **Maximum muscle mass and strength is in early 30's.**
- **Maximum athletic accomplishments are between 19-34.**



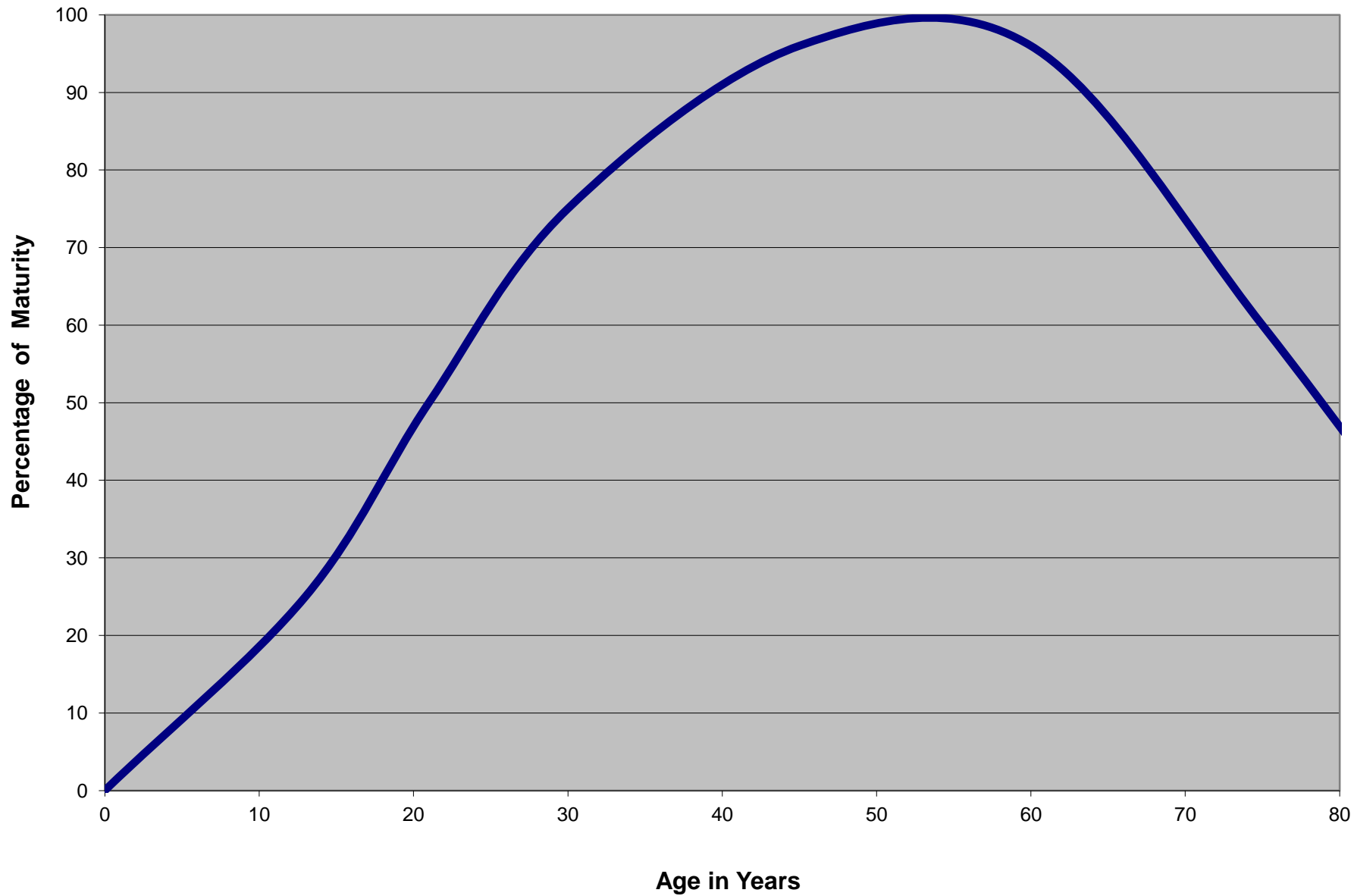
# **Maturity Text: I Corinthians 13:11**

- **When I was a child ...**
- **I spake as a child ...**
- **I understood as a child ...**
- **I thought as a child ...**
- **But when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

# **Value by Age: Leviticus 27:1-7**

- **0-5 years of age ... 5 shekels of silver (10%).**
- **5-20 years of age ... 20 shekels of silver (40%).**
- **20-60 years of age ... 50 shekels of silver (100%).**
- **60-90 years of age ... 15 shekels of silver (30%).**

# Maturity Curve



# Importance of 30

“From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation” (Num 4:3).

“Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and upward: and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand” (I Chron 23:3).

“And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli” (Luke 3:23).

# **Is Manhood 18 or 30?**

- **America promotes 18 and is very wrong like usual.**
- **Should we measure by grasshopper speed or character?**
- **A 30-year-old knows he was a fool in comparison at 18!**
- **18-year-olds volunteering for combat prove immaturity!**
- **Sadly, many 30-year-olds today act like they are 18!**

# What Is Maturity?

- **Maturity is development toward perfection of manhood.**
- **It has much more to do with character than your body.**
- **Development of emotions, thoughts, convictions, ideals.**
- **A man's ambition and commitment easily trump a boy's.**
- **Much of it is age-derived and is mostly altered negatively.**

# What Is Experience?

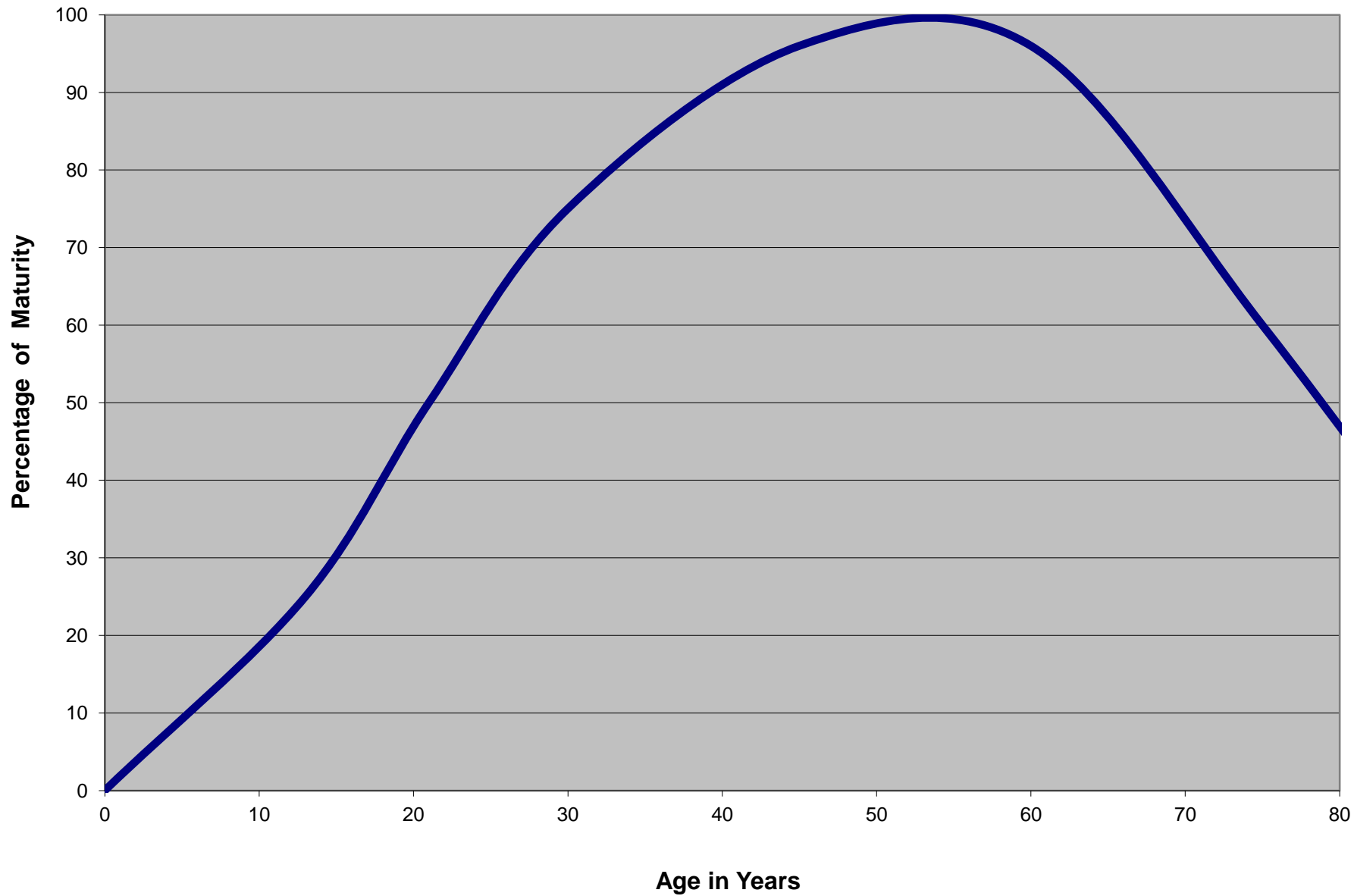
- **Experience is one of the great teachers of lessons in life.**
- **It rewards good behavior and punishes poor behavior.**
- **Parents and pastors can teach – most learn the hard way.**
- **By assessing self and others, experience can be useful.**
- **Much of it is time-based and is only as good as analyzed.**

# How Can We Accelerate It?

- **The world wants you children as long as possible ... 40?**
- **It is good that a man bear the yoke in his youth (Lam 3:27).**
- **Age and time being prime factors, they are altered little.**
- **Spiritual growth by Spirit, Word, and godly men is best.**
- **Early job, early wife, and early baby help the instructed.**



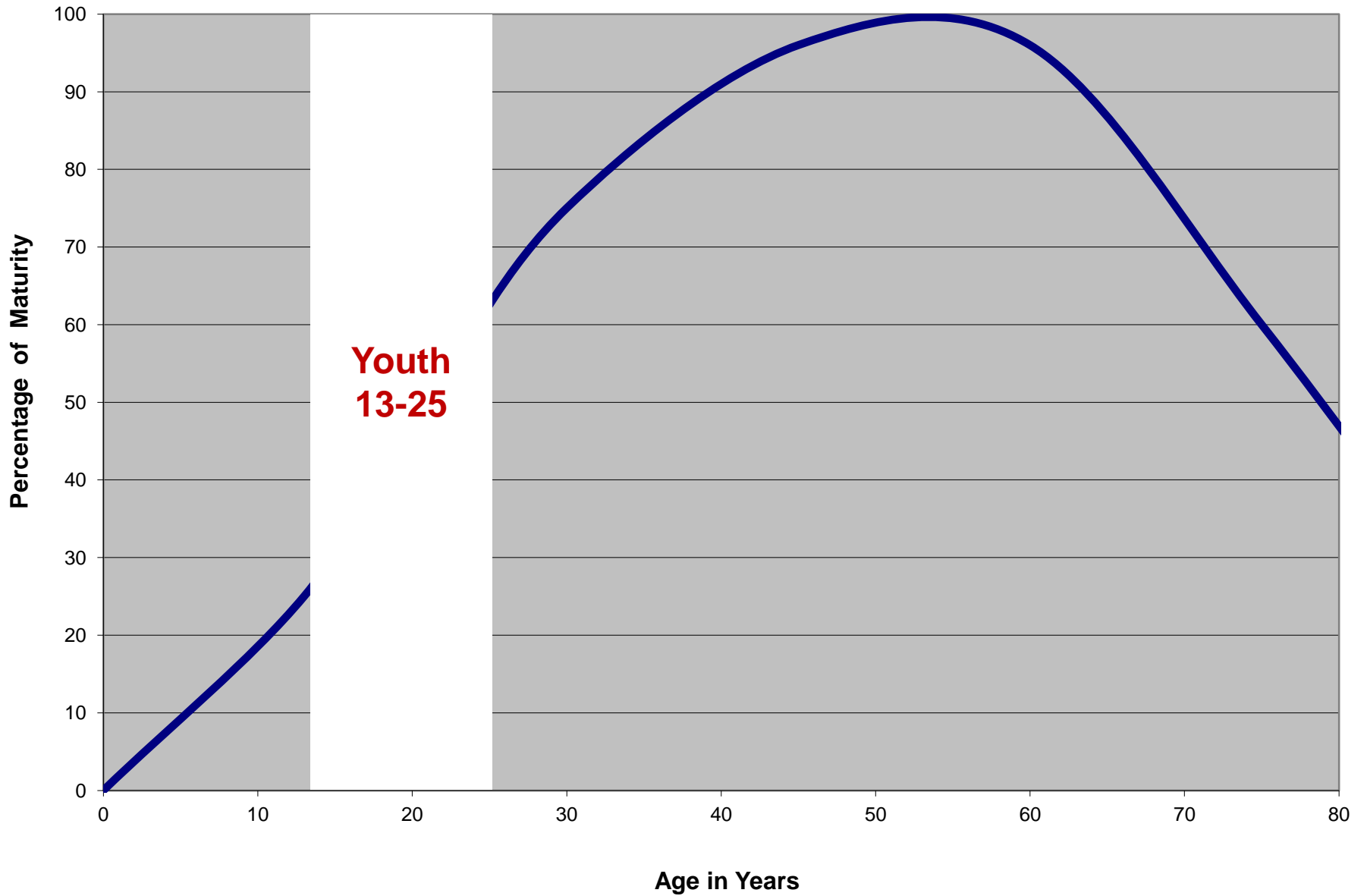
# Maturity Curve



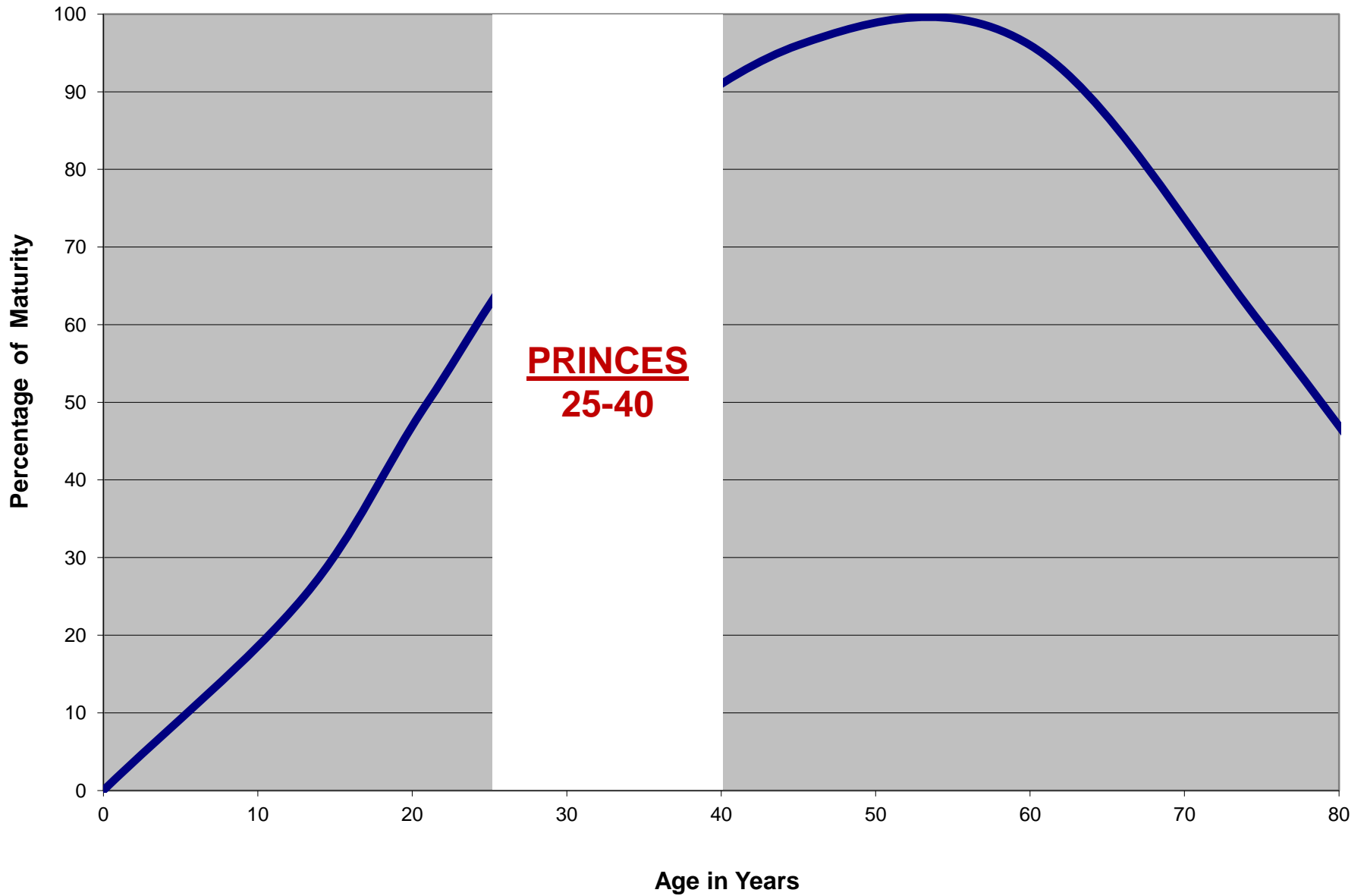
# Phases of Maturity



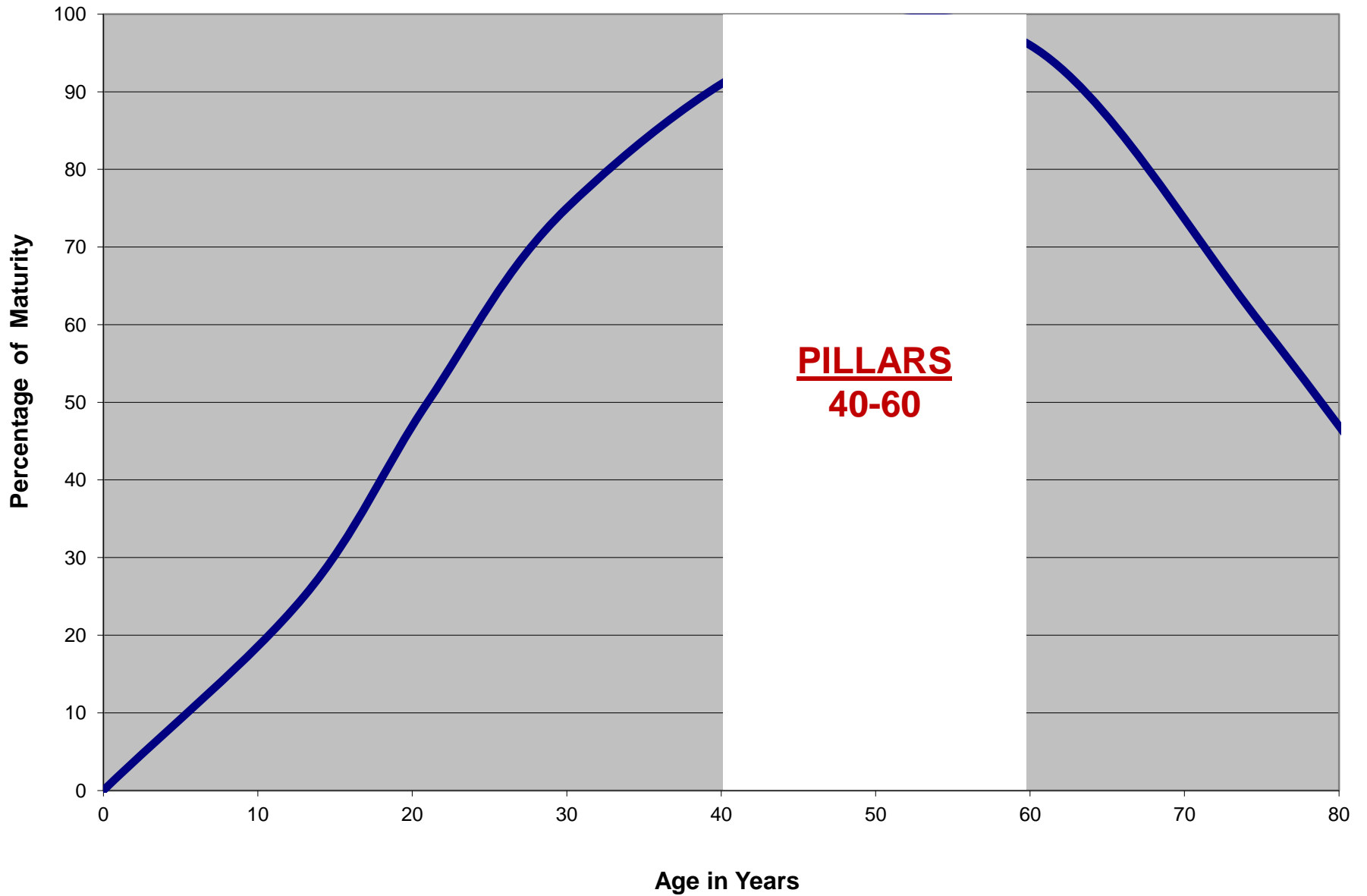
# Phases of Maturity



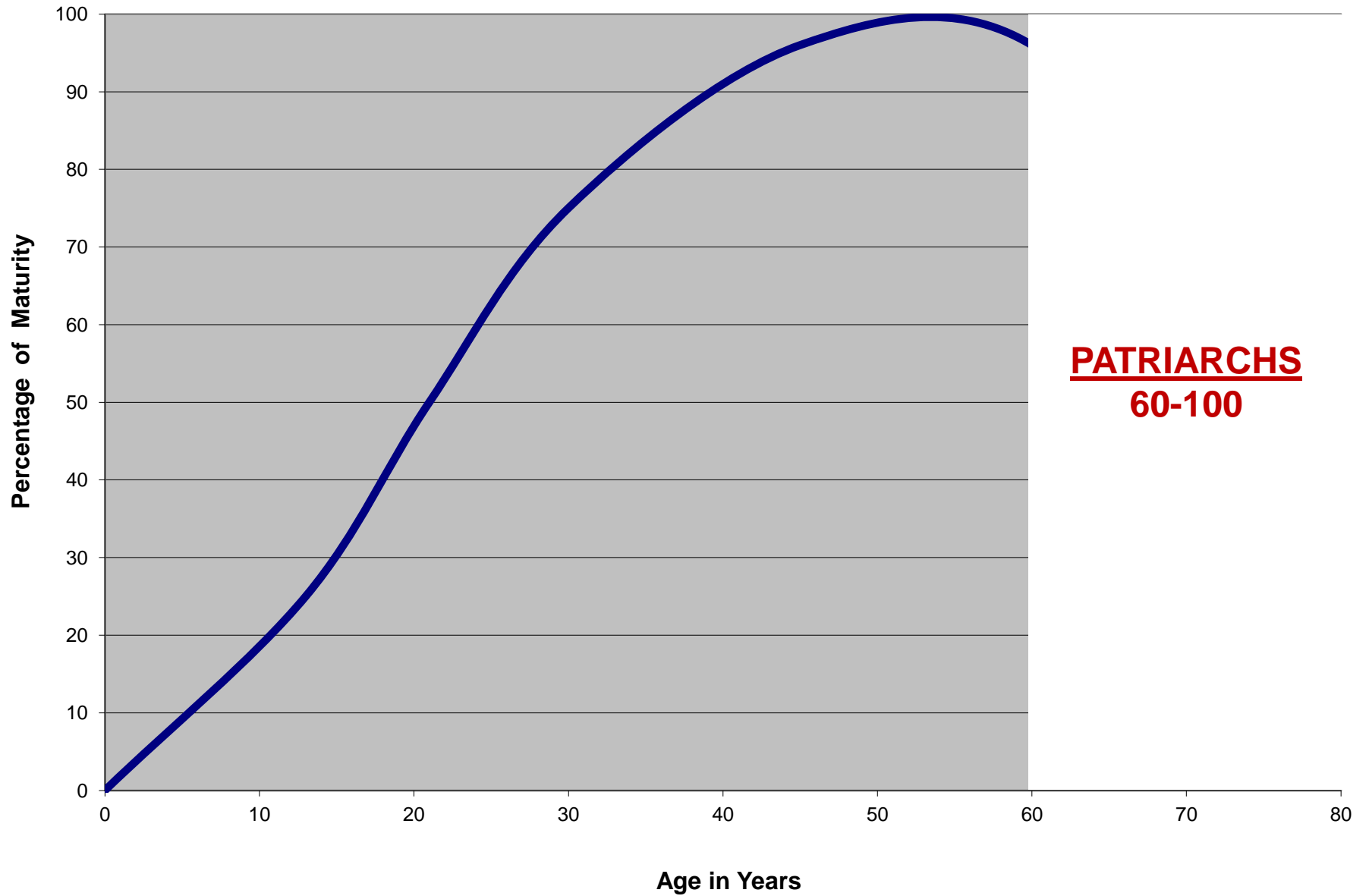
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# **What Is a Mature Youth (13-25)?**

- **Show school work or real work is better than playing.**
- **Show bodybuilding, video games, and cars are playing.**
- **Reputation for personally helping and serving others.**
- **Reputation for godly conservative and sober, not cool.**
- **Temperance in all things – speech, alcohol, and money.**

# **What Is a Prince (25-40)?**

- **All that a mature youth is – enhanced to a higher level.**
- **Loving and leading husband and father matching Bible.**
- **Sought by others for sound wisdom and practical insight.**
- **Outstanding career managed well in all regards to Lord.**
- **Obvious wisdom and honor in life without problem areas.**



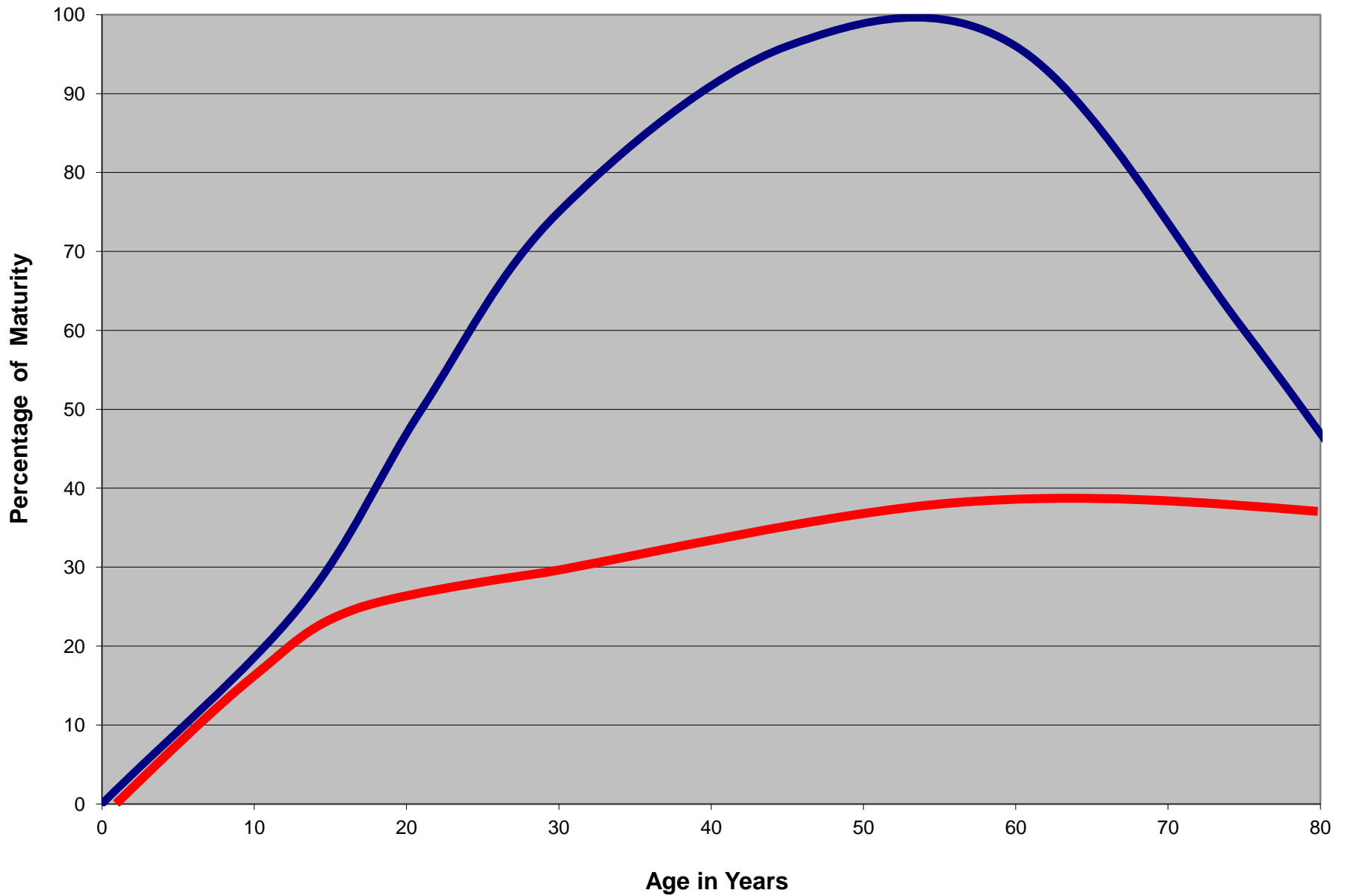
# **What Is a Pillar (40-60)?**

- **All that a prince is – but enhanced to a higher level.**
- **Consistency and faithfulness that can be trusted always.**
- **Provides help and strength everywhere and at all times.**
- **Not distracted by any vanity but holds fast all old paths.**
- **Fully committed to polishing children, grandchildren, etc.**

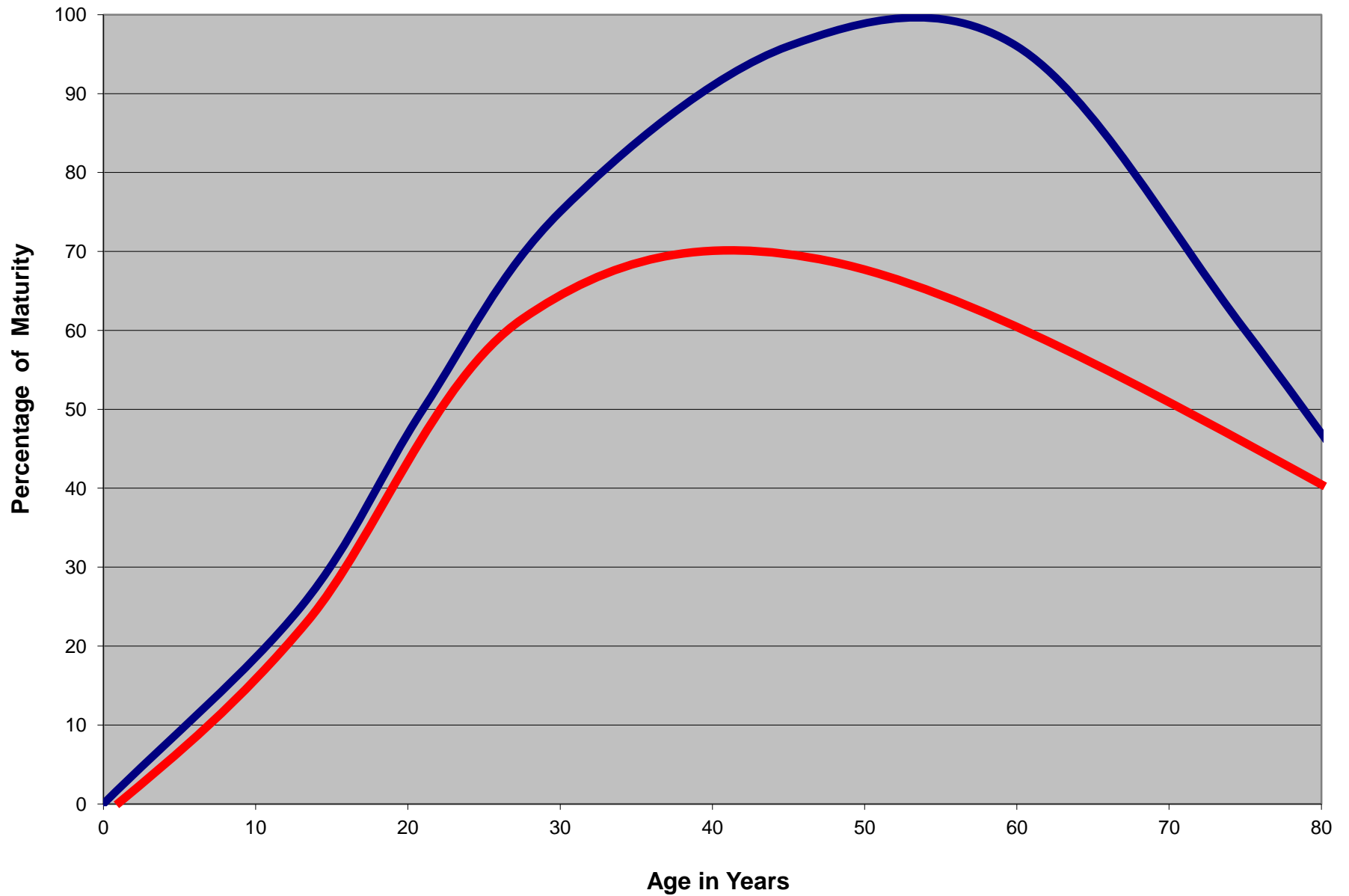
# What Is a Patriarch (60-100)?

- **All that a pillar is – but enhanced to a higher level.**
- **Sober, grave, temperate, faith, charity, patience (Tit 2:2).**
- **Retained earnings with estate (Prov 11:16; 13:22; 19:14).**
- **Family tree with fruit of godliness in most or all branches.**
- **Willing for others to lead out of wisdom, not fear or sloth.**

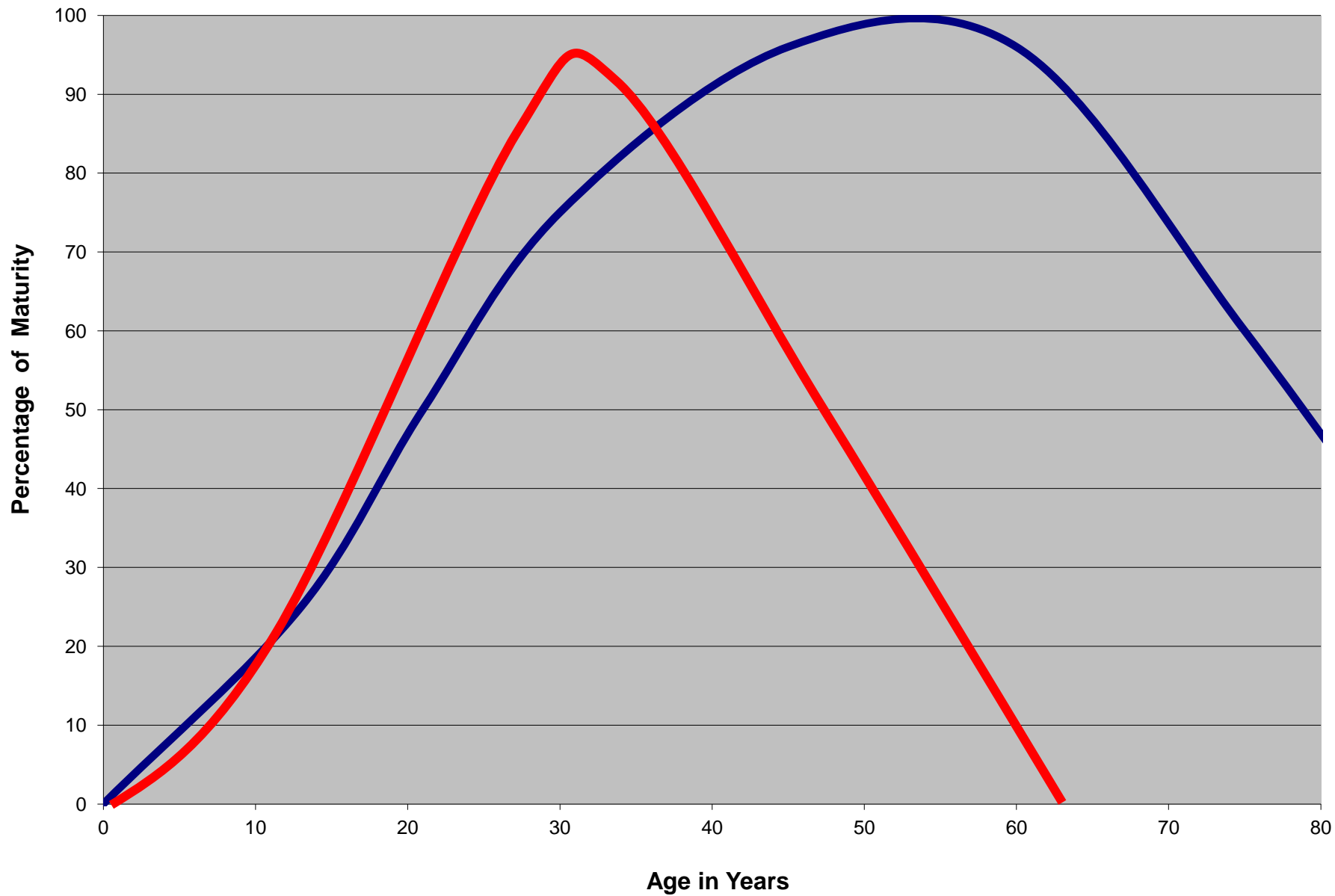
# ESPN – Video Games – Gym Rat



# Family & Job Are My Life



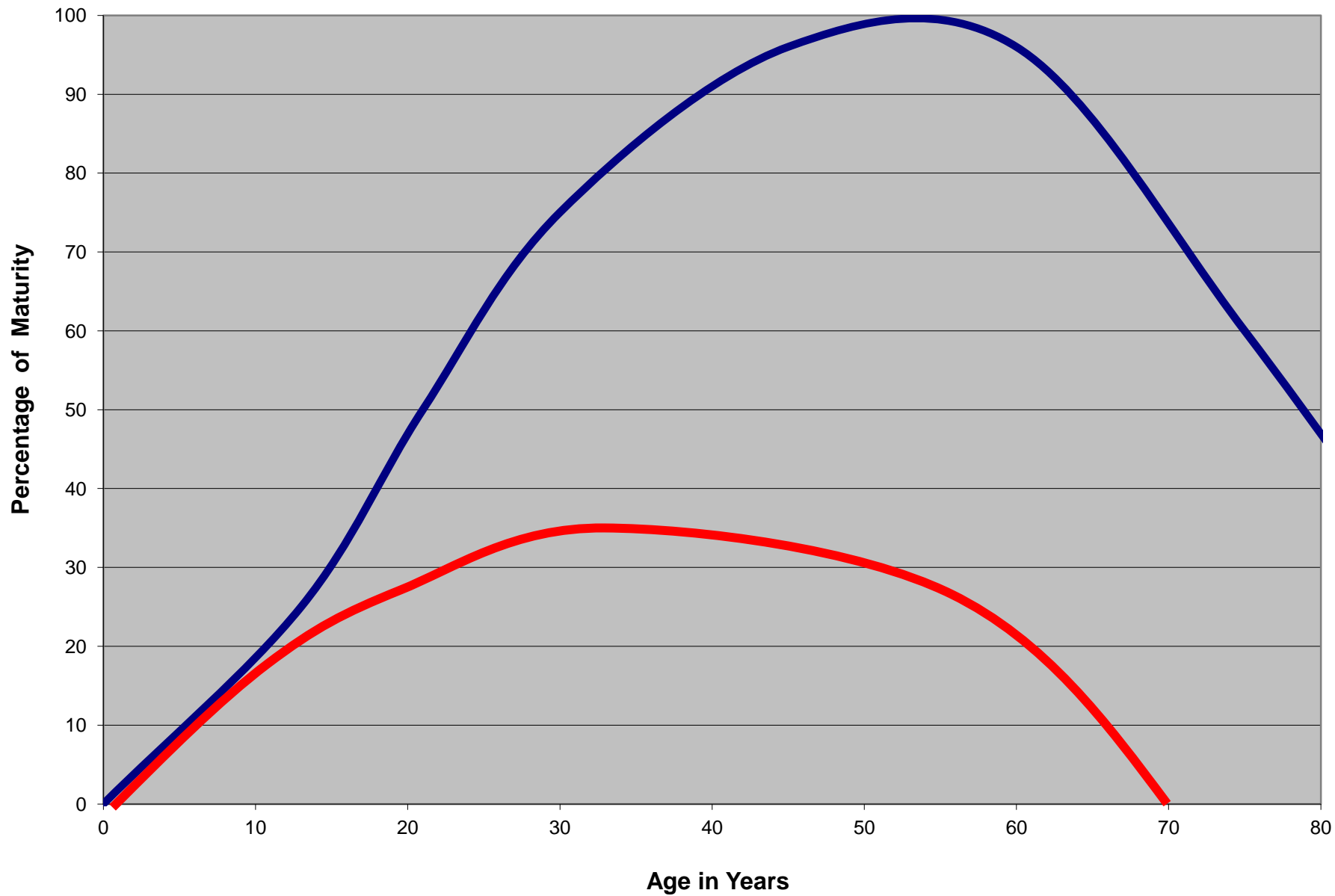
# Sprinting vs. Running



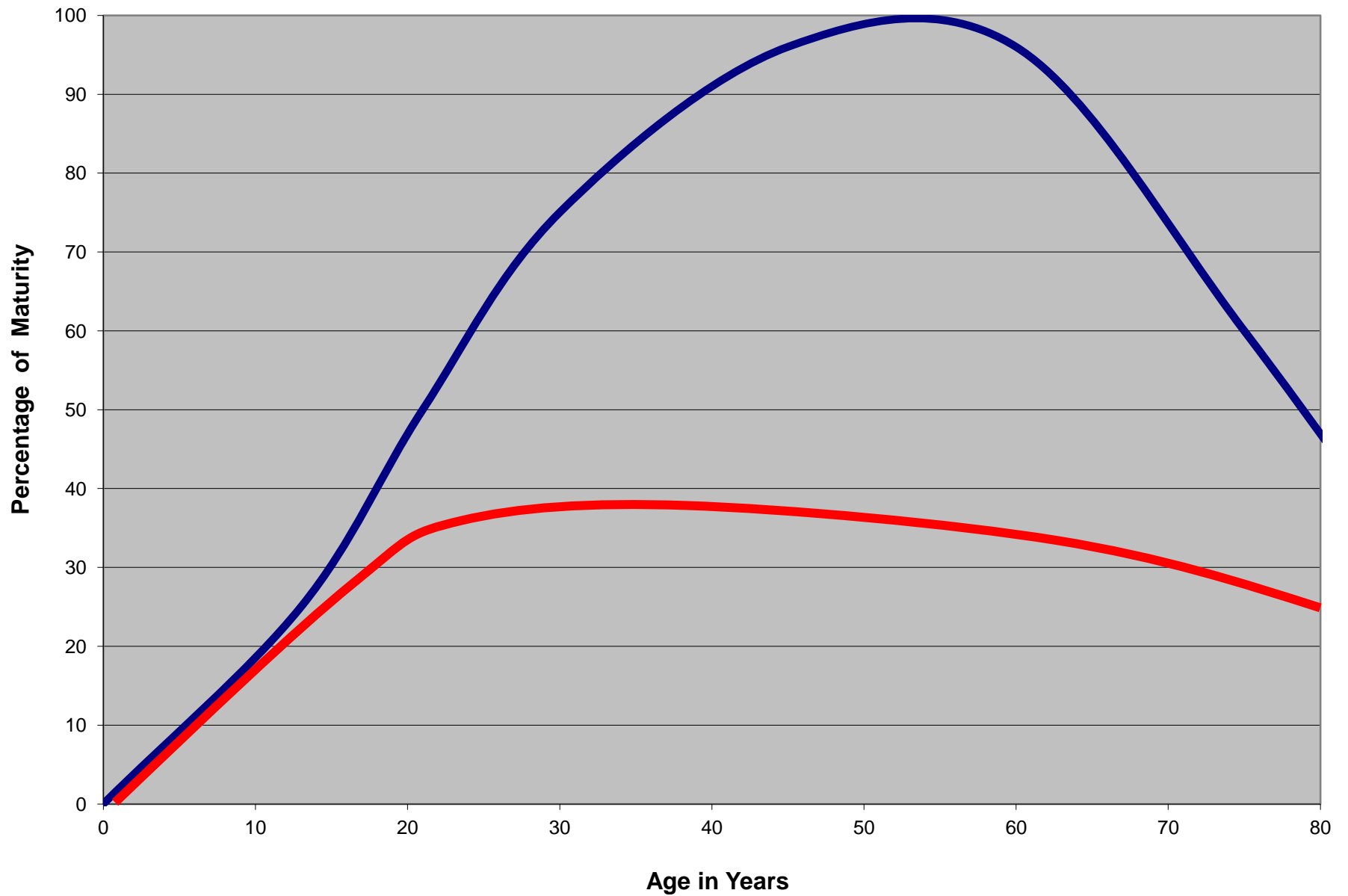
# Cannot Rule My Up-and-Down Spirit



# I Don't Like Authority

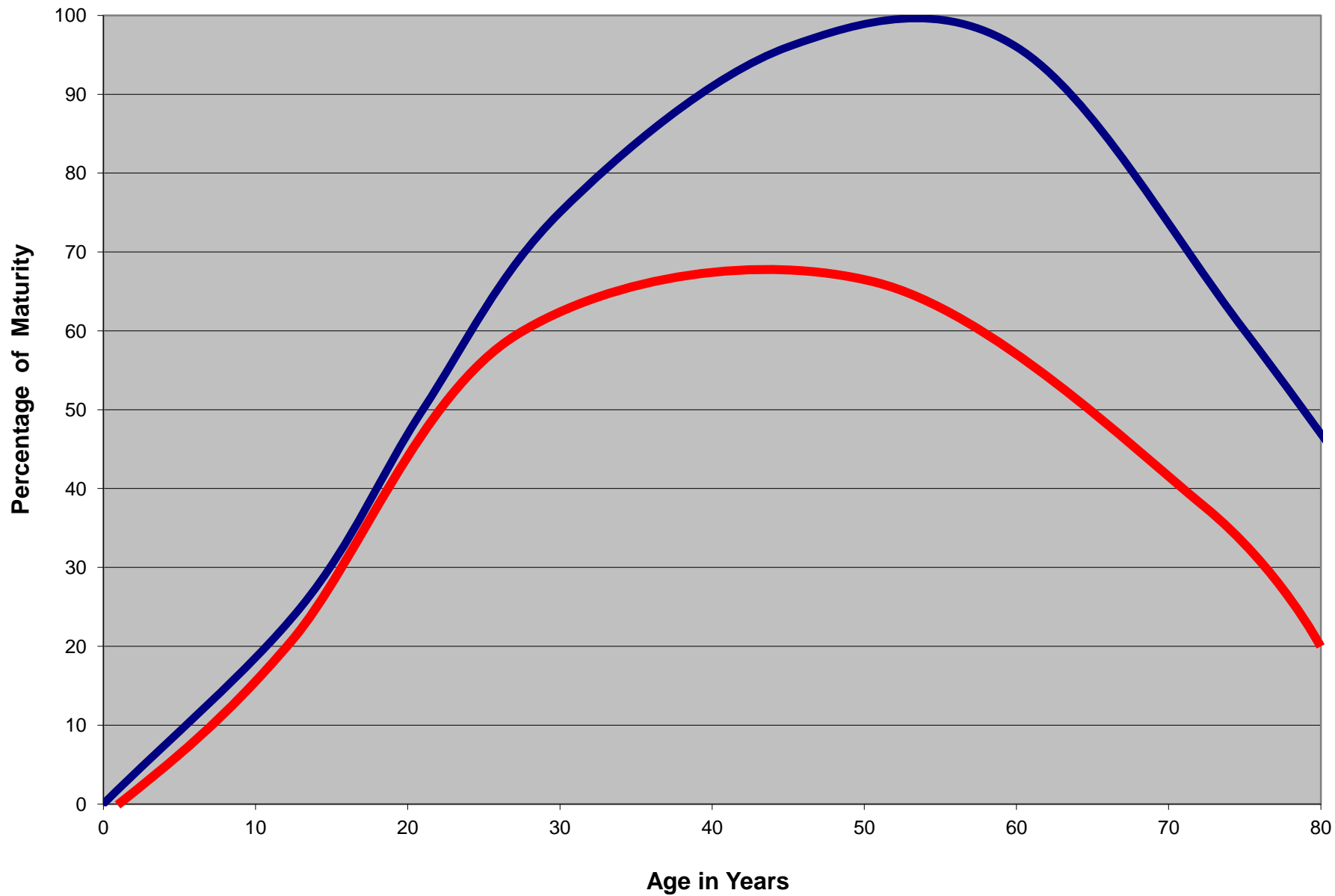


# I Just Wanna Be Cool and have a Good Time





# I Have My Own Agenda



# General Uses of Maturity

- **Measure your children with wisdom and pity by age.**
- **Measure and judge others with wisdom and pity by age.**
- **Examine yourself to see if you perform for your age.**
- **Remember the effect on the graph for foolish choices.**
- **Set your goals high and remember consistency counts.**

# **General Uses of Maturity**

- **It really has nothing to do with appearance e.g. gray hair.**
- **It really has nothing to do with position (Peter principle).**
- **It is measured by overall conduct, not speech or spurts.**
- **The church of God needs maturity at every age category.**
- **Maturity is a prime goal of child and grandchild training.**

# **Specific Uses of Maturity**

- **What others think is far more accurate than your opinion.**
- **Your conduct as measured by scripture is all that counts.**
- **Every scripture and sermon has input to help maturity.**
- **Self-examination and temperance are two mighty keys.**
- **We will give account to God whether we were men or not.**

# How Are You Doing? - 1

- **Does your conduct match your category: child, pillar, etc?**
- **Are you generally selfish (infant) ... or selfless (pillar)?**
- **Are you consistent/stable ... or inconsistent/unstable?**
- **Do you have calm initiative ... or must you be prodded?**
- **Children are intemperate ... pillars are very temperate.**

# **How Are You Doing? - 2**

- **Knowledge of Bible and life truth – much more with age.**
- **It is the development of wisdom for any given situation.**
- **Pillars and patriarchs are patient in negative events.**
- **Duty and responsibility are certain traits of maturity.**
- **Serving others is grasped and done on a frequent basis.**

# **How Are You Doing? - 3**

- **Are you a jewel in this church, a fixture, or an anchor?**
- **Are you concerned about your maturity and contribution?**
- **How often are you sought to for counsel by your peers?**
- **Do you pursue others on Sunday ... or hang with family?**
- **If others do not choose your way ... do you withdraw?**

# How Are You Doing? - 4

- **How close are you to being “addicted to serving saints”?**
- **Are you given to hospitality ... or too busy with your life?**
- **Are you temperate financially to be annually improving?**
- **Do little things bother you ... or do you ignore them?**
- **Are sermons guides for life ... or a lot of noise to endure?**



# **How Are You Doing? - 5**

- **Do you grasp that single-digit children prove nothing?**
- **Are you a peacemaker or a troublemaker or a loner?**
- **Are you a busybody in others' matters or a bodybuilder?**
- **Do you love liberties you take or those you allow others?**
- **Do you like to let slip your disapproval of others' liberty?**

# How Are You Doing? - 6

- **Do feelings/moods influence you ... or do you rule them?**
- **Is your boiling point lower or higher than last year? 5yrs?**
- **Do you like to pick on details or grasp the overall lesson?**
- **Are you best at focusing on your beams or others' motes?**
- **Are you fiscally temperate as the fiscally-mature expect?**

# **How Are You Doing? - 7**

- **Are you consistent and stable over weeks and years?**
- **If you vary up-down, especially in public, you are childish.**
- **Are you time urgent about big matters ... or little ones?**
- **Are you selfless about others – prayer, serving, asking?**
- **How important are your hobbies to you? Be honest here!**

# How Are You Doing? - 8

- **Are you low or high maintenance. Guess what it means?**
- **What is your favorite subject? Christ? You? Job? Money?**
- **How fast and fully do you forgive others in any matter?**
- **Discouraged by adversity ... or unmoved by situations?**
- **Are you capable of counseling ... how many seek you?**

# Maturity with Wives

- **Selfish and possessive ... or ... gentle, loving, and liberal.**
- **Dominant by “authority” ... or ... love and lead to submit.**
- **Your wife begs for privileges ... or ... you liberally offer.**
- **Control her time for you ... or let her blossom as a rose.**
- **She exceeds you in some ways ... you lead her in all ways.**

# **Maturity with Children**

- **You are very fair by allowing for great age differences.**
- **You grasp their feelings and try to encourage them.**
- **You are consistent rather than sprint-spurt-stop.**
- **You are an example more than a teacher.**
- **You do not expect the pastor to do your job for you.**

# **Maturity with Church**

- **You are willing to help if the pastor asks? Initiate help!**
- **You take the initiative to do what you can with visitors?**
- **How much more than warming a pew do you do weekly?**
- **Assemblies are for everyone else not related to you.**
- **Encouraging others and making peace are priorities.**

# Climb Up to the Curve

- **Below your spot on the curve? ... repent, reform, grow up!**
- **Aggressive changes can raise you toward the line.**
- **Repent of any lazy, selfish, “fun,” or “play” things you do.**
- **Volunteer or initiate duty, serving, selfless things to do.**
- **You can do it! Do not be a Saul, Samson, or Solomon!**



# For Further Study

- **Grow Up ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-maturity.pdf>.
- **Measuring Your Life ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/make-your-life-count.pdf>.
- **Patriarchy ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/patriarchy.pdf>.
- **Great Men in Public ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/great-men-in-public.pdf>.
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