

**MATURITY: How to Measure Up to God's Standards**  
**(Ephesians 4:1-16)**

Dr. Bill Miller

MATURITY – How to Measure Up to God’s Standards

When you are whole, you will practice holiness.

You find wholeness through...

**Worthy** – **Know Who You Are (Ephesians 4:1-6)**

4:1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. 4:2 Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 4:3 Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace.

7 QUALITIES THAT MAKE FOR WORTHY LIVING  
HUMILITY

\_\_\_\_\_

PATIENCE

\_\_\_\_\_

UNITY  
COMMITMENT

\_\_\_\_\_

4:4 We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. 4:5 There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 4:6 and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all and in us all and living through us all.

7 parts to your Calling:

One \_\_\_\_\_

Same Spirit

Same Future

One \_\_\_\_\_

One Faith

One \_\_\_\_\_  
One God and Father

**Worthy \_\_\_\_\_ – Know What To Do (Ephesians 4:7-12)**

A Great Task

4:7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift according to the generosity of Christ.

"special Gift" =

A Great Boss

4:8 That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people." 4:9 Notice that it says "he ascended." This means that Christ first came down to the lowly world in which we live. 4:10 The same one who came down is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that his rule might fill the entire universe.

Who Ascended & Descended?

A Great Mission

4:11 He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 4:12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ,

Five Empowering Roles

1<sup>st</sup> - Apostles      --      God's Work

2<sup>nd</sup> - Prophets      --      God's people

3<sup>rd</sup> - Evangelists      --      God's Work

4<sup>th</sup> - Pastors      --      for God's people

5<sup>th</sup> - Teachers -- \_\_\_\_\_ God's people

Responsibility = \_\_\_\_\_ God's People

Common mistake:

WRONG – \_\_\_\_\_ church work

RIGHT – \_\_\_\_\_ God's people to serve Him

Worthy \_\_\_\_\_ – Why You Do it (Ephesians 4:13-16)

Ultimate Goal

4:13 until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.

Four Aspects of Christian Maturity

1<sup>st</sup> - \_\_\_\_\_ with Other Christians

2<sup>nd</sup> - \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship with Jesus

3<sup>rd</sup> - \_\_\_\_\_ of Personal Potential

4<sup>th</sup> - \_\_\_\_\_ the Character of Christ

Benefits of that Goal

1) What Won't Happen when we are Mature

4:14 Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth.

Traits of the Immature

\_\_\_\_\_

Inability to \_\_\_\_\_ the Truth

## 2) What we will Achieve when we reach Maturity

4:15 Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

Two marks of maturity

1<sup>st</sup>) Balance of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2<sup>nd</sup>) Becoming \_\_\_\_\_.

### Maturity Achieved

4:16 Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

How to know when a church is full of mature people

Each person does its own \_\_\_\_\_ (via spiritual gifts)

Helps others \_\_\_\_\_.

Helps toward \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_, & Full of \_\_\_\_\_.

Summary: "3 marks of Christian maturity:"

4:1-6 worthy calling -- Know who you are

4:7-12 worthy work -- Know your work

4:13-16 worthy goal -- Know why you are doing it