

Jan. 15,
2012

TCC YOUTH

For Small Groups & Personal Study

Triangle Community Church
Student Ministry

Daily Exposure to
God's Word



Monday

[Luke 24:13-35](#)

Think about times that you can recognize Jesus being at work in your life. Share one time with someone else.

Tuesday

[1 John 3:1-10](#)

Pray for God to enable you to see Jesus more clearly today & for you to have a deeper passion to know Him more.

Wednesday

[Colossians 1:1-14](#)

Pray for God to give you the knowledge of His will so that you may bear much fruit and live a life worthy of the Lord.

Thursday

[Colossians 1:15-23](#)

What would your life look like if you stayed an enemy of God? Thank God today for bringing you into a relationship with Him.

Friday

[Colossians 1:24-29](#)

As Christians, Christ Lives in us? How does knowing Christ lives in shape or change the way you think about becoming a Mature Christian?

LOPSIDED CHRISTIANITY

PART 3: CHRIST'S CALL TO MATURITY

Do You Recognize Jesus?

Have you ever noticed that Jesus' followers had difficulty recognizing Him when He appeared to them after His resurrection? He appeared to Mary and she thought He was a gardener. (John 20:14, 15) He appeared, walked and talked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and they did not realize it was Him. (Luke 24:13-32) He yelled to the disciples in the boat fishing and they did not recognize Him. (John 21:4) Why couldn't they recognize Him? Did their grief blind them? Human pain and suffering can do that. It can give the illusion that we're all alone and we do not recognize those around us, even our closest friends. Could it have been their lack of expectation? Jesus had died. They knew death was final, so they did

not expect to see Jesus again. Even if this man looked like Jesus, it could not be Him. He was dead. Or could it be that they were kept from recognizing Him?

What are the things in your life that seem to be keeping you from Growing and moving toward maturity in Christ? When we are not recognizing Jesus in the daily moments of our life we can feel like our Christianity and pursuit of God is Lopsided. Each and every person can grow and mature in Christ. This week we are going to look deeper into how we can do that. Take some time and dig into God's word each day using the verses on the left. Also, take the questions on the back and discuss them with your family, small group or a friend. Don't be lopsided in your Christian Growth!

Group Questions

Connect with Others

1. What are the factors that determine how well you really know someone or not? What do you need to do to get to know them better?
2. In what ways have you felt lopsided in your pursuit of a deeper relationship with God?

Dig in the Message

3. Discuss the 4 areas of Maturity? (physical, intellectual, psychological, & spiritual). Can someone be mature in 1 of the areas of but not another? Why or why not? *Read "What is Christian Maturity and discuss."*
4. Do you feel overwhelmed thinking about how you can become more like Christ? Explain. *Read *How do Christians Become Mature* and discuss.
5. How does the hope of being like Christ motivate us toward Christian living and maturity?
6. Who can become Mature in Christ? Read "Who Can Grow into Christian Maturity" and discuss the questions with your group.

Transform and Apply

7. Where in your spiritual growth are you having to be patient because there seems little progress?
8. What are some of the changes you have seen in your life since you became a believer? What have others noticed?
9. A year from now, how would you like to be more Christlike? What can you do today to move toward that goal?

Part 3: Christ's Call to Maturity

Scripture Memory

Colossians 1:28-29

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."

What is Christian Maturity?

What does someone who is Mature in Christ look like?

So if to be a Christian is to be "in Christ" that is, to be united to Christ, then to be a mature Christian is obviously to have a mature, grown up relationship with Christ. A relationship in which we trust him, love him, worship him and obey him.

So to be a mature Christian is to be united with Christ in such a way that we have a mature relationship with him. ***(Discuss Question 4 in the Dig section).***

How do Christians Become Mature?

When you come to think about it, the idea of becoming like Jesus can be very overwhelming. Do you remember the WWJD bracelets that people wore? What would Jesus do? Almost every christian was asking themselves this question with each and every decision. The best way we can know what we should do, (What Would Jesus Do?) is by getting to know Jesus, by digging into His Word and seeing Him more clearly. In our search to becoming like Jesus and become mature comes when we know more of who Jesus is.

(Cont. top right)

Christian Maturity is completely tied to and dependent upon how well we recognize Jesus and Who He is.

How Mature cont....

Read *Colossians 1:15-18.

What does this passage say about Jesus? How should knowing the fact that Jesus is Lord of the Universe and Lord of Church cause us to respond to life's difficult situations?

Read Luke 24:25-27. If Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ, and knowledge of Scripture is knowledge of Christ, then how important should God's word be to us? What do you need to do differently to have daily exposure to God's word?

Read 1 John 3:1-3 and discuss these questions.

Why do you think seeing Jesus for who He is makes us more like Him? What can we do to help us to grow in our maturity in Christ and recognizing Jesus more in your life. Does it make you feel a little better knowing that your growth in Christ is a process that will not be completed until Christ Returns? Why or why not? ****Take a few minutes and share a God story (a time where you recognize Jesus was at work in your life). Go to question 5.***

Who Can Grow into Christian Maturity?

Colossians 1:28, "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete (or mature) in Christ."

According to this verse **every** person can be complete in Christ. **How does it make you feel knowing that EVERY Person can Grow in Maturity in Christ? Have you ever felt like only certain Christians can be mature in Christ? Why do you think you felt that way?**

How is 'becoming like Jesus Christ' different from the way most people understand 'discipleship'?