

## MARKS OF MATURITY

Heb 5:11 - 6:3

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. The process of growth is as essential in the spiritual realm as in the physical realm.
- B. Growth process is **edification** 1Cor 14:26; Eph.4:11-14
- C. Our goal is **perfection** (*teleios*) - completeness, fully developed, entire **maturity**
- D. All Christians are to "go on unto perfection" Heb 6:1
- E. Our growth can be measured by marks or signs of maturity found in the Scriptures

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. THE MARKS OR SIGNS FROM HEBREWS (5:11-6:3)

- A. The ability to teach others v 12
  - 1. To teach one must know, therefore be learner also
  - 2. Involves disposition of willingness which also recognizes seriousness Jas 3:1
- B. The ability to receive "**meaty**" teaching v 14
  - 1. Leaving (not forgetting or abandoning) first principles and building on this foundation
  - 2. Failure here is a sign of carnality 1Cor 3:1-3
- C. The ability to discern between good and evil v 14
  - 1. This requires "senses exercised"
  - 2. Able to know difference in what God & man says
  - 3. Sees evil in perspective, even tendencies and trends Phil 1:9,10

#### II. HUMILITY IS A MARK OF MATURITY

- A. To be perfect (mature) one must be humble enough to be willing to receive instruction Col 1:28
- B. Also, must be humble enough to be willing to receive admonition 1Thess 5:12; 2Thess 3:15
  - 1. To be perfect we must be admonished
  - 2. All need reproof, correction, and instructions from the Scriptures 2Tim 3:16,17
- C. Be humble enough to recognize own shortcomings
  - 1. Say "I have sinned" as David & prodigal son Psa 41:4; Lk 15:18
  - 2. Being mature means recognizing our own imperfections

#### III. TONGUE CONTROL A MARK OF MATURITY Jas 3:2

- A. Not speaking against one another Jas 4:11
- B. Not speaking evil 1Pet 3:10
- C. Not speaking lies Eph 4:25
- D. Not speaking profanity Jas 3:10; Matt 12:36
- E. Not murmuring & complaining Phil 2:14; 1Cor 10:10

#### IV. LOVE IS A MARK OF MATURITY

- A. The bond of perfectness Col 3:14
- B. Love for God 1Jhn 4:17-21
- C. Brethren Jhn 13:35
- D. Even enemies Matt 5:43-48

#### V. STEADFASTNESS IS A MARK OF MATURITY

- A. Steadfast in trials Jas 1:2-4;
- B. Steadfast in temptations Jas 1:12-15
- C. Steadfast in work 1Cor 15:58

### CONCLUSION:

- A. As children of God we must grow up to maturity just as physical children must grow to maturity
- B. However, one cannot grow as a child of God until they become His child!
- C. Many think they are growing and maturing who have not even been born into God's family
- D. Many who are His children are not growing and maturing as they should.
- E. Let's all examine ourselves in light of the Bible marks of maturity and see if we are developing as we should.