



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Mission of God: Growing Into Maturity

Bible Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

[Join our citKids Connect discussion at 11am](#)

“Ephesians 4:13-16 presents spiritual maturity as absolutely necessary and the lack of it as a dangerous state for the church to be in...a church lacking in spiritual maturity will likely succumb to the machinations of false teachers and other forces of error who are resolved to deceive, mislead, and destroy.” (Emmanuel Mbennah, *The Mature Church*, p. xii)

“When the gifts operate in their God-appointed manner, and the saints are active in service for the Lord, three dangers are avoided: immaturity, instability and gullibility.” (William MacDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary*, p. 1936)

Paul Joins God in His Mission (Phil. 1:6; 3:13-14; Col. 1:28)

- A. Paul realizes God’s goal was our maturity (Phil. 1:6; 3:13-14)
- B. Paul labours to present everyone mature in Christ (Col. 1:28)
- C. Paul asks the leaders to join God in his mission (Acts 20:29-30)

Intentionally Growing To Maturity (Eph. 4:13) “Until we all reach... maturity”

- A. Being intentional about our spiritual growth
- B. ALL arriving at maturity
 1. the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the son of God
 2. Matching Christ

The Danger of Remaining Immature (Eph. 4:14)

“Paul shows that spiritual maturity is necessary because without it Christians will not stop being children.” (Emmanuel Mbennah, *The Mature Church*, p. 69)

A. No longer be little children

1. “In this context, being an infant is a negative image implying... instability and susceptibility to deception and to being led astray...unstable, lacking in direction, vacillating, and open to manipulation.” (Emmanuel Mbennah, *The Mature Church*, p. 70)

B. Tossed and blown about

1. Ian's experiences

2. From inside the church (Acts 20:28-30; Rom. 16:17-18; Gal. 1:6-7; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 4:1-7; 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:15-18; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 Jn. 4:1-3; Jude 4; Rev. 2:2)

1. Circumcision (Gal. 1:7; 5:2)

2. “Sex is bad” (1 Cor. 7:1)

3. Vain philosophies (Col. 2:4, 8, 16, 18)

4. Heavenly tourism

5. Angel feathers

3. From outside the church

4. Satan's strategy: Human cunning & deceitful techniques (Eph. 6:11)

C. Be a Berean (Acts 17:10-11)

Speak & Live the Truth In Love (Eph. 4:15)

The Whole Body Grows From Christ (Eph. 4:16)