

**The Profile Of A Healthy Church
Message #5**

Attributes of The Mature (Part 1)

1 Thessalonians 1.6,7

Dr. Larry Lamb – March 19, 2023

1 Corinthians 13.11 *When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.*

MATURITY IN JESUS IS OPEN TO EVERY CHRISTIAN.

CVC is a growth-driven church where a **maturity commitment** is a good thing and spiritual mediocrity is unappealing.

- Emphasis is on *being*, not just doing.
- On *humility* not arrogance.
- Not about superiority but *servng*.

The church in Thessalonica was a remarkable church community:

- It was not a Dead Sea church = No life.
Rather, a Living Water Church = Life
- They were absorbed in prayer
- Faith, love, and endurance highlighted an attitude of their commitment.
- The people who comprised this church endured suffering because they believed the message of the CROSS.

An Attribute Of The Mature

Possess an awareness of JOY even when confronted by brutal circumstances in life.

1 Thessalonians 1.6,7 *So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. 7 As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece - throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.*

APPEASEMENT NEVER WORKS.

2 Corinthians 1.3,4 *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

REF Streams in The Desert Devotional (March 7)

2 Corinthians 7.5-7 *When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. 6 But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus. 7 His presence was a joy, but so was the news he brought of the encouragement he received from you...*

James 1.2-4 *Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*

- **Maturing** in our faith doesn't occur from the *absence of suffering*, but from the life that usually comes after suffering.
- **Affirm** with prayer and words those whom you know who are suffering.

What's one marker of the mature?

Possessing an awareness of JOY even when confronted by brutal circumstances in life.

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and in need of Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.