

Series: Building a Church That Lasts
Building a Church That Connects With God
(Discipleship)

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NIV)

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

1. BECOMING AN AUTHENTIC FOLLOWER OF JESUS IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

v. 12 "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word..."

Ephesians 4:14 (NIV)

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

- Growing in Christ is not a function of years.
- Being mature in our faith gives opportunity to pass along what we have learned to others.
- Regardless of how old we are, we have to start at the beginning.

2. THE GOAL OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS TO PRODUCE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

*v. 13 "Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness."
Psalm 17:15 (NIV)*

And I--in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

Deuteronomy 6:25 (NIV)

And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."

- If we never get into the deeper teachings of the Word, we will not fully understand righteousness.
- Righteousness is God's reward for obedience.
- The pursuit of righteousness is worth the effort.

Proverbs 21:21 (NIV)

He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

3. THE MARK OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS MAKING RIGHT CHOICES.

v. 14 "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

- There are always going to be consequences for the choices that we make.
- Being an authentic follower of Jesus is all about making the right choices.

Mature choices versus immature choices

Obedience	rather than	<u>disobedience</u>
Teaching others	rather than	<u>just being taught</u>
Self-evaluation	rather than	<u>self-criticism</u>
Seeking unity	rather than	<u>promoting disunity</u>
Active faith	rather than	<u>caution, apathy and doubt</u>
Confidence	rather than	<u>fear</u>