

“Maturity In Our Life Together”

Ephesians 4:11-16

Dr. Thurman R. Hayes, Jr.

January 27, 2008

“until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,” Ephesians 4:13

1) Why does maturity matter?

a) Without it we are vulnerable to bad teaching.

“so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”
Ephesians 4:14

“¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

2 Corinthians 11:13-14

b) Without it we can't reflect Christ to the world.

“...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” Ephesians 4:15b

“...to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,”
Ephesians 4:13b

2) What does maturity look like?

a) We lovingly unite around true doctrine.

“until we all attain to the unity of the faith...”
Ephesians 4:13a

“Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” Jude 3

“Rather, speaking the truth in love...” Ephesians 4:15a

b) We are all doing the work of ministry.

“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,” Ephesians 4:12

3) How does maturity happen?

a) Equippers equip, believer's minister.

“¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,”

Ephesians 4:11-12

b) We operate under a biblical framework.

“from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:16