

THOSE WHO ARE MATURE

Philippians 3:12-16
December 29, 2019

Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

- Phil. 3:15-16

I. NOT PERFECT...BUT STRIVING FOR PERFECTION

- “I’m not perfect” is a very true statement, but never an excuse for lacking vigilance for a Christ follower (Deut 4:29; 1 Chron. 28:9; 2 Cor. 13:11).
- Paul speaks clearly here of a striving, a reaching, even fighting for all that amounts to attaining “the resurrection from the dead” (vss.11-14).
- The Christian life is marked by action. God has called us to a radical discipleship. This type of life takes time and effort (1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 2:12-13).
- The Christian life is also marked by partnerships. We are not in this fight alone (Phil. 2:14-18).

II. HOLDING TRUE

- Mature believers strive for more maturity. It is a mark of their maturity. Those who are mature want to be more mature. It is a healthy cycle that leads to spiritual vitality (Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 5:11-14).
- Mature believers see some matters from different perspectives. There is no sin in this, and at times some value (vs. 15; 1 Cor. 11:18-19).
- If in our disagreements we genuinely seek the will of God, it will be made known to us (Rom. 12:1-2).
- Moving forward is the key to our walk with Christ. We hold true to what we already have gained, and in so doing we never lose ground (vs. 16).

III. GOALS AT LIFEPOINT FOR 2020

1. Pressing on toward more maturity
2. Moving confidently toward the future in Christ
3. Holding secondary/tertiary differences lightly
4. Holding true to what we already have in Christ
 - A. Remaining/Beginning in the word of God
 - B. Studying to show ourselves approved (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - C. Practicing the principles of Christian unity

KNOW: We are in process in the school of Christ. The past need not hinder our future. We hold on to what we have already attained without worrying why we haven’t attained it all...yet. Mature believers know this and are able to navigate life and relationships better.

DO: Press on to greater maturity without leaving others drowning in your wake.

Suggested Reading:

The Grace and Truth Paradox by Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library #248.4)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Philippians 3:12-16

1. What is Paul trying to attain in this passage?
2. How is he going about attaining it?
3. If salvation is by grace, how can we talk about work and striving?
4. Can we/should we really forget the past (in terms of sinful actions) as a believer? If so, how do we do that?
5. How can you live up to what you have already attained in your faith?
6. What steps will you take in 2020 to live up to what you have attained while striving for more in the future?