

Discipleship: Maturing One Another | Ephesians 4:13-16

Until we 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, 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. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...

Main Idea

Christian maturity is the on-going process of regularly and lovingly reintroducing the gospel to one another.

Four Marks of Maturing One Another

1. Unity

- a. Unity in Faith
 - i. Meaning the theological/objective truths about God that are revealed in scripture;
- b. Unity in Knowledge
 - i. The experience of knowing God; daily discipleship with one another; knowledge that flows from the head to the heart and hands;

2. Christlikeness

- a. Growing in maturity, individually and corporately, keeps us from staying as children.
 - i. Soundness to guard against and identify false doctrines;
 - ii. Discernment against deception, lies, and trends;
 1. "About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil." (Hebrews 5:11-14)

3. Truth

- a. Speaking the truth to one another begins with knowing God's word; a deep affection for the word and promises of God.

4. Love

- a. We cannot separate truth from love; truth without love is bitter orthodoxy.
 - i. "Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we really cannot hear it. Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws." (Tim Keller)

- b. When we speak the truth without love, we demonstrate two things:
 - i. We lack maturity
 - ii. We are afraid of being vulnerable; hiding behind theology
- c. When we speak with love and without truth, we demonstrate two things:
 - i. We lack maturity
 - ii. We are afraid of being rejected; hiding behind sentimentality

Benediction | Hebrews 13:20

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.