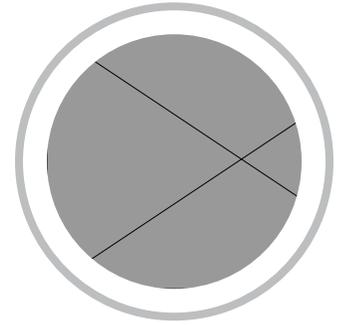


# PRINCIPLES OF MOVING TO MATURITY



As we move toward maturity, there are three broad categories of maturing in the Christian life:

1. “Me” centered – healing the needy new believer.
2. “Others” centered – maturing the healing believer.
3. “Christ” centered – release the mature believer.

One of the greatest gifts you can give to a young believer is to provide a safe place (opportunity) where they can disclose what is true about the sin that is in them and where they can disclose what is true about the sin that has been done against them to provide a place where they do not have to hide anything.

Maturing is a process. When nurturing someone make sure not to push them beyond the pace it takes for their character to mature. Right answers do not equate to right choices.

*IMPORTANT!* Young believers and maturing leaders will adapt themselves to your expectations. Whenever we allow someone else to live according to our expectations, we are thwarting their maturity. We want to be about teaching them truth about who they are. And we want to be teaching them truth about who God says they are and what His purposes are for them.

Spiritual maturity takes place when we actually learn to teach others to believe what God says is already true about them. Spiritual maturity takes place when people are taught to believe and live out of who God says they are. It isn't just that we know what the Bible says about who we are in Christ. It's that we actually believe who we are in Christ is true for us. The godly actually believe who they are in Christ and live out of it.

As the humble come under His influence and obey His truth, they experience a suffering, a process that God uses to mature them. You can see if a person is growing in this process because God enlarges their sphere of influence. It is the obedient who are implementing the purposes of God. And that is God's process of maturing.

The mature delight in the influence of others. The immature compete with the influence of others. (Saul was spiritually immature because he could not enjoy the benefit of David's influence.)

The mature pursue the enriching and releasing of someone else into their destiny. In this

pursuit, it is critical that we learn not to manipulate our influence, to retain position or control the expectations of those who follow us.

The mature are careful to understand the temptations that can be inherent in power & position. Immature leaders will move to the power in their position because they do not have confidence in the influence of their person. *Influence is in our person, not in our position.* Mature leaders learn how to receive power, they do not pursue it.

The pursuit of power will eventually corrupt the leader and those he or she influences. Power will destroy us if we are not humble. The reason many people are not in positions of (godly) influence is because God cannot trust them with the power of the position.

Think of yourself as a threshold. You are somebody God is using for them to pass through into what it is God has for them.

The mature are able to do the right thing, make the right decision, whether they feel like it or not. Many leaders will say, "I don't like conflict." What they really don't like is making the hard decisions and then directing people through the conflict created by the decision.

As a leader, never say "no" without a reason.

For a mature leader, the focus is on influence, not opportunity. A mature leader makes significant life decisions for the benefit of others.

The mature are learning how to own the influence they have. People of character care about this issue because maturity changes the focus of what I am accomplishing to what others are accomplishing because of my influence.

Mature leaders have integrity. They express that integrity by honoring the trust of those under their influence. Mature leaders are vulnerable and it's evident because of their lack of hidden issues.

Mature leaders are those who are able to honor protection by always seeking permission not assuming it.

Mature leaders do not fear other's strengths; they understand them, submit to them, and benefit from them.

Mature leaders, in their vulnerability, express to others that they are still a learner and are willing to allow others to speak into their lives and meet their needs.

Mature leaders give permission to those they trust to speak into their lives.