

OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

What does it mean to be mature?

When did you become reasonably mature, and how did you know?

DIG

Read EPHESIANS 4:11-13

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. (NLT)

What does this passage say is the primary role of church leaders?

In your experience, who have you seen demonstrate this church leadership role best?

The Apostle Paul wrote about you becoming mature in the Lord. Some older versions translate the word mature as "perfect." Explain all of the descriptions of a mature disciple that are found in verse 13?

Read EPHESIANS 4:14-16

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (NLT)

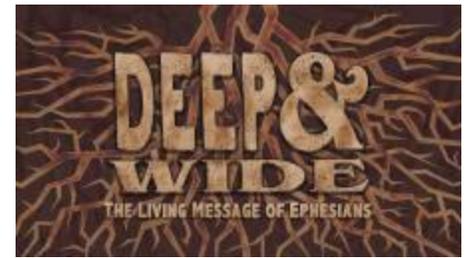
Explain the differences in an immature and a mature disciple (verses 14-15)?

Paul described the church as a body that is healthy or mature, and growing or building itself up. What specific things are listed that show when a church is healthy?

Based on this passage, what are problems of trying to live the Christian life apart from a church? When have you experienced doing Christianity alone?

APPLY

If your own spiritual life were measured on a maturity scale, would you describe yourself best as an infant, a child, a young adult, or a mature adult?



Leaders

Series

This discussion guide follows the theme of a sermon in a series called "Deep and Wide." It examines living messages and practical applications from the Apostle Paul's letter of Ephesians.

Big Idea

This lesson is focused on the importance of spiritual growth as individuals and as a church community.

Prayer

Pray for all members of your group to find ways to serve in ministry utilizing their own gifts and opportunities.

Group Leadership

Groups thrive on consistency. Create a rhythm of meeting regularly so people do not have to wonder if there is a group meeting or not. Occasional times the group does not meet should be the exceptions, not the pattern. In order to do this, make sure there is a backup facilitator available at all times to carry on the meeting when the primary group leader is not available.