

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 1.4



What Does a Mature Christian Look Like?

Sermon Youtube Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/6jC3bZKBg0M?si=rJdV-Uwk1Cr-DA6R>

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to help each person honestly evaluate their spiritual maturity.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

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1. A Mature Believer Has the Right Motivation: Obedience

- Paul was driven by divine obligation, not financial gain
- He saw himself as a steward entrusted with the gospel
- His motivation was faithfulness to his Master, not personal comfort

2. A Mature Believer Has the Right Purpose: Serving Others

- Paul made himself a servant to all to win more people to Christ
- He willingly laid aside his rights and preferences for the spiritual benefit of others
- He became "all things to all people" without compromising the gospel message

3. A Mature Believer Has the Right Focus: Eternal Impact

- Paul ran to win an imperishable crown, not a perishable one
- He disciplined himself with eternal consequences in mind
- He refused to let temporal concerns distract from eternal priorities

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-27 together. What stands out to you most from this passage? Why?
2. In verse 19, Paul says he is "free from all men" yet made himself "a servant to all." How do freedom and servanthood work together in the Christian life?
3. What does Paul mean when he says he became "all things to all people" (v. 22)? What are the boundaries of this principle? What would be going too far?

Personal Reflection

4. Motivation Check: When you think about your spiritual life, what honestly motivates you most?
 - Obligation or duty?
 - Fear of consequences?
 - Love for God and obedience to Him?
 - Desire for blessings or comfort?
 - Something else?
5. Purpose Check: The sermon asked: "Where in our lives has obedience to Christ been replaced with a desire for convenience and comfort?" How would you answer that question for yourself?
6. Focus Check: What typically consumes your thoughts throughout the day? How much mental and emotional energy do you spend on eternal things versus temporary things?

Going Deeper

7. Paul was willing to give up his right to be paid for ministry for the sake of the gospel. What rights or freedoms might God be calling you to lay down for the spiritual benefit of others?
8. The sermon mentioned several spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, Bible reading, meditation). Which of these do you practice regularly? Which do you need to develop more?
9. Paul says in verse 27 that he disciplines his body so he won't be "disqualified." He wasn't worried about losing his salvation, but about losing his effectiveness. What areas of your life need more discipline to protect your witness and effectiveness for Christ?

Honest Assessment

10. If you're honest with yourself, would you say you're a mature believer or an immature believer? What evidence supports your answer?
 11. The sermon stated that "immaturity will demand its rights, but maturity is willing to lay those rights down." Can you think of a recent situation where you demanded your rights instead of considering others' spiritual well-being?
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Practical Application

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Motivation Audit

- Spend 15 minutes each day this week asking God to reveal your true motivations
- Journal about one area where convenience has replaced obedience
- Take one specific step toward obedience in that area

Option 2: Purpose Shift

- Identify one person in your life who needs to know Christ or grow in Christ
- Pray daily for that person
- Look for one opportunity to serve them this week with no expectation of return
- Ask God how you might become "all things" to reach them without compromising truth

Option 3: Focus Reset

- Each morning this week, before checking your phone, spend 10 minutes reading Scripture and asking: "How can I live today for eternal impact?"
- At the end of each day, journal one way you focused on eternal things and one way you got distracted by temporal things
- Share your observations with an accountability partner

Option 4: Discipline Training

- Choose one spiritual discipline you've been neglecting (prayer, fasting, Scripture reading/meditation, etc.)
 - Create a specific, realistic plan to practice it this week
 - Ask someone in the group to check in with you about it
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Prayer Focus

Pray together,

- Pray for honesty to see where you truly are in your spiritual maturity
 - Pray for grace to grow and not remain stagnant
 - Pray for the courage to lay down rights and preferences for the sake of the gospel
 - Pray for an eternal focus that transforms daily decisions
 - Pray for each person's specific commitment this week
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Additional Resources

- Reread 1 Corinthians 8-9 for full context
- Consider reading about Paul's life in Acts to see these principles lived out
- Reflect on Jesus' teaching about servanthood in Mark 10:42-45