

Notes for Adult discussion groups at On-Line@9 Worship Service 6 August 2006

GROW UP

Introduction

What does the word 'mature' mean to you?

Brainstorm your ideas together within the group, using the flipchart paper.

Now do the same for the word 'immature'.

Give out the notes to the group <u>after</u> the brainstorming exercise.

Reading Ephesians 4 v 13-15

Look at the passage from

"And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's stature. Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blowing about by every shifting wind of the teaching of deceitful people, who lead others into error by the tricks they invent. Instead, by speaking the truth in a spirit of love, we must grow up in every way to Christ, who is the head."

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Questions

1 What does it mean to be a mature person, in a Christian sense?

You can use the words on the flip chart as a starting point. Sometimes it is easier to describe maturity by looking at what we mean by immature. Being responsible, thoughtful, having maturity through Christian experiences, deeper understanding, stronger faith (?), fund of Christian knowledge, . . .

2 Do you think of yourself as a mature Christian? Might other people view you in that way?

Others may see us as mature when we feel we are still growing up; even a "child" can have a mature response in some situations; being mature doesn't mean you've stop growing.

3 How important is it to be 'rooted' and 'grounded'?

Importance of worship, study, prayer, Christian friendship and fellowship, . . . keeping us from being" blown about by every shifting wind"

4 How do you think you will know when you have grown up to Christ?

Love guides our every thought and action - we recognise that we will never reach perfection on this earth, but the goal is not so unattainable that it is not worth striving for.

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