



Are You Otherwise Minded?

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind." (Philippians 3:14-16)

Five Goals of the Mature

1. Realize You Have Not Arrived

- a. Paul admitted, toward the end of his ministry, that he still did not know it all.
- b. The more you learn the more you realize how much you do not know.
- c. You will still be learning throughout eternity.

2. Forget Those Things Which are Behind

- a. Sins that have been forgiven are past. Stop being so hard on yourself.
- b. Stop wondering why someone turned on you.
 1. Why did you not know the truth about the issue?
 2. God will either reveal the truth in time or in heaven.
- c. One day in time we can look back on the problems without anger and confusion. We can grow by it.

3. Press Toward the Mark, The Final Level of Your Call

- a. You were not given eyes in the back of your head but the front. What is over is over.
- b. Your failures are fertilizer for success yet to come.

4. Quit Spending Time on Minor Issues. God Will Reveal

- a. Eternal security.
- b. Do our pets go to heaven?
- c. Drinking wine or not.
- d. The excesses of the message of faith.

- a. Watch your confession.
- b. Prosperity, the car you drive, or your house.
- e. The excesses of the grace message.
 - 1. Do Christians confess their sins?
 - 2. Does grace allow us to sin?
- f. Movie ratings.
- g. Maturity causes us to love and respect others more even if they do not agree with us on all issues.

5. Having to Preach Your Viewpoint is Immaturity

- a. Young ministers like to preach controversial issues from the beliefs.
- b. This brings divisions and strife (1 Corinthians 3:3-4).

6. Dance With the One That “Brung Ya”

Whatever level you have attained, walk by the same rule.

- a. These side issues did not get you to where you are.
- b. Side issues only just do that, they sidetrack you.
- c. Many Christians used to be interested in foundation principles of the word of God.
 - 1. They used to only want to love and help others.
 - 2. Now they are caught up in one or two non-issues with no eternal value.
 - 3. Stick with the word, the leadership, the power of the Holy Spirit, and love toward sinners and saints.
- d. The world needs more stable Christians (Isaiah 33:6)