

GROWING UP

Pastor Bill Young (bill@trc.life)
Philippians 3:12-21

I want to know Christ! (**Philippians 3:10a NIV84**)

Four keys to Christian maturity: Mature people...

I. Reject _____, but strive for godliness.

A. You will _____ be perfect in this life.

Philippians 3:12-13a (NIV84) **Not** that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made **perfect**, but I **press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV84) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—**yet was without sin**.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV84) Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Q: Are you willing to admit your weaknesses...**out loud**?

B. You should focus on the _____, not the past.

Philippians 3:13b (NIV84) But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead**,

Philippians 3:14 (NIV84) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 24:16 (CEV) Even if good people fall seven times, they will get back up.

Q: Are you willing to forget the **past**, embrace **future**?

II. Pursue _____ for relational spiritual growth.

A. Ask God to help you do the _____ right thing.

Philippians 3:15-16 (NIV84) All of us who are **mature** should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us **live up to** what we have already **attained**.

Hebrews 5:13

Q: Do you know Jesus **better** this year than last?

III. Pick godly _____ for helpful support.

A. Seek out Godly _____ to imitate. (You choose!)

Philippians 3:17 (NIV84) Join with others in following **my example**, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV84) He **who walks with the wise** grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Hebrews 6:12 (NIV84) We do not want you to become lazy, but to **imitate** those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Q: Do your friends push you **closer** to Jesus?

B. Avoid ungodly _____ for your protection.

Philippians 3:18-19 (NIV84) For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV84) Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Q: Would you let **your** (grown) **kids** hang out with your friends?

IV. Focus on _____ for comfort and encouragement.

A. Mature Christians eagerly _____ Jesus to return!

Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV84) But our citizenship is in **heaven**. And **we eagerly await a Savior from there**, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Colossians 3:1-2 (NIV84) Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Q: Which world are **YOU** living for?