

Maturing in Love



Eph. 4:11-17
Mark 12:29-31

- Review – “In Order to Shift We Must Mature”
 - Purpose: to mature us for our next assignment, to shift.
 - Goal: for us to resolve in our hearts that we will shift as mature believers.
- A. We must mature for several reasons – to work our ministry; So that we can come into the unity of the faith; so that we will grow up and not be little children anymore.
 - B. How do we mature (2Pet. 1:1-9)? We “add” to or “supply generously.” – virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.
 - C. I must make a commitment to be different than the old.

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- There is a place in the faith called unity and God want us to come there.
 - I am asking every member of Love & Faith to take the rest of this year:
 1. To work on developing our personal maturity.
 2. We are taking the perfecting ministries and bringing the lay ministers to a level of maturity so that we can move to our next assignment (to shift), so that we will not be castaway.
 3. So that we will not quit on God when our personal expectations are not met.
- How to Mature in Love:
 - Love is the most important subject taught in the Bible.
 - Love is the most important subject taught in the Word of God, but it is the least taught and the least lived in the body of Christ (John 13:35).
 - There are three that we must love; (1) God; (2) Ourselves; (3) Our neighbor.

1. We must know how to love God (John 14:15).
 - A. A loving relationship involves commitment and loyalty.
 - B. A loving relationship involves trust and respect for the person loved.
 - C. A loving relationship involves the giving and the surrendering of oneself.
 - D. A loving relationship involves knowing and sharing.

2. We must love ourselves.
 - A. There is a corrupt love of self that feels the world should center around oneself.
 - B. There is a godly love for self that is natural and pleasing to God.
 - C. The godly love of self has three traits that are clearly seen.

3. How to love my neighbor or others?
 - A. To love others is a command not an option.
 - B. Who is our neighbor? Jesus answered the question Himself in the parable of the "Good Samaritan."
 - C. To love our neighbor is a very practical acts that are spelled out in Scripture (1 Cor. 13:4-7).