

## **Becoming Spiritually Mature**

### **Ephesians 4:13-16**

**Russell Cook**  
**West End Church of Christ**  
**Knoxville, TN**

1. Do you realize that God has goals for you? Are your goals in life the same as the goals God has for you?
    - a. In Romans 8:29 we read, “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
    - b. God has stated that His purpose is for all of us to become like His Son, Jesus Christ.
  2. It should be said that maturity does not always “naturally” happen.
  3. There are too many who settle for less than God has for them. Our text speaks of the goal to grow into a mature person in Christ.
- 
- I. There is an Attitude of Maturity. Ephesians 4:13a, “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”
    - A. Paul has already spoken of the unity all believers possess in Christ.
      1. Ephesians 4:3-4
    - B. There are two ways we are going to reach this maturity.
      1. Philippians 3:8
    - C. The goal for every believer is to be conformed to the image of Christ.
      1. Romans 8:28; Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:1-2
  - II. Paul Describes an Attitude of Immaturity. Ephesians 4:14, “Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.”
    - A. Being a child is great; being childish is not a mature Christian trait.
    - B. Paul says there is childish infantility. “we will no longer be infants,”
    - C. Paul claims there is constant instability. “tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching.”
    - D. They demonstrate gullibility. “the cunning and craftiness of men...”
  - III. There Is An Atmosphere of Spiritual Maturity. Ephesians 4:15, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”
    - A. Paul describes an atmosphere that is essential for spiritual maturity.
    - B. Speaking the truth in love has a place in the life of the mature Christian.
  - IV. The Attributes of Spiritual Maturity. Ephesians 4:16, “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”
    - A. Paul defines spiritual maturity in regards to one’s relationship to the Body of Christ.
    - B. There is no room for “Lone Rangers” in the church.