

# **Marks of Spiritual Maturity**

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

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1. “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.” Romans 8:29
  2. “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18
- I. There is an Attitude of Spiritual 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. “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3
  - B. There are two ways we are going to reach this maturity.
    1. “What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Philippians 3:8
  - C. The goal for every believer is to be conformed to the image of Christ. Romans 8:29
    1. Romans 8:28; Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:1-2
- II. There is an Atmosphere of Spiritual 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 childishness. “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. Finally, they demonstrate gullibility. “the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.”
- III. There is an Accomplishment of Spiritual Unity. 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 accomplishment that all churches should desire to fulfill.
  - B. Speaking the truth in love is critical to the life and maturity of the church.
- IV. There are 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.