

## “A NEW NORMAL” | Wk 5 | 6/21/2020

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### WARM-UP: Engage (“Together”)

1. When was a time you found it hard to keep perspective? (ie: in a fog on a hike, finals week)
2. Have you been surprised by something different than you thought? (ie: snake in the bushes)

### WORD: Establish (“Truth”)

**Leader:** Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.

- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Tyler asked us to fight the temptation to lose perspective in our relationship with God. As Christ-followers, we’re prone to drifting towards “resignation” or “wishful thinking,” which hinders our growth to spiritual maturity. On one hand, we may feel incapable of following Jesus, so we give up “taking up our cross” and resign ourselves to mediocrity in loving Christ and neighbor. On the other hand, others may believe that “one day” we will just wake up and be following Jesus, which is not hope, but dreaming of a disembodied and impossible reality. Instead, God invites us to grow beyond just “spiritual milk” and “seeing in part.” He challenges us to participate in the maturation process by “loving today” in ways that cultivate maturation of our hope.
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
  - a. Why is Paul frustrated? How does he classify the Corinthians’ behavior?
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:4-9
  - a. Instead of maturing in their faith, how have the Corinthians taken their eyes off Christ?
  - b. What have they deferred their attention to?
  - c. How do we behave similarly today?
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
  - a. What does Paul say will happen to the materials we build our lives with?
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-23 (especially verse 19-20)
  - a. How does Paul check their perspective with a dose of humility?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
  - a. What does Paul tell them will happen when Christ returns in “completeness”?
  - b. What are the three elements of mature faith that Paul highlights?

### APPLICATION: Equip (“Way”)

1. Where are you tempted to give in to “resignation” or “wishful thinking” as you follow Christ?
2. Where is your life centered around pursuit of “experiences, desires, and preferences?” (McKnight)
3. How has giving in to these temptations kept you from maturing in your hope in Christ?
4. Where is God calling you to pursue a life of maturing in Christ instead?
5. How can you “put childish ways behind you” through living out “love as a present-tense verb”?

### PRAYER Empower (“Life” in the Spirit)

1. What area of life can you/we pray for your strength to mature in your love for Christ?
2. Pray for commitment to move on to greater adulthood in your relationship with Christ?