

## **House Arrest: Making the Best of a Bad Situation** **An Opportunity for Maturity**

Ephesians 4:1-3

*“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility & gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* **Ephesians 4:1-3**

### **Main Idea: House Arrest provides a Great Opportunity for Maturity**

#### **I. Maturity is Formed through Sound Doctrine**

*“And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul & kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again...”* **Acts 20:37-38a**

*“I **therefore**, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge you** to walk in a manner worthy of the **calling** to which you have been called.”* **Ephesians 4:1**

*“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own...let those of us who are mature think this way...”* **Philippians 3:12, 15a**

*“The Christian life is simply the process of becoming what you are.”*

**J. MacArthur**

*“The Christian life is not based on ignorance, but knowledge, & the better we understand Bible doctrine, the easier it is to obey Bible duties.”*

**Warren Wiersbe**

#### **II. Maturity is Found in Faithful Obedience**

##### **Christian Maturity Looks a Lot Like:**

- **Humility** – Compare yourself with Jesus instead of others, realizing your own desperate need for His grace. A distinctively Christian idea.

*“Humility is actually a word which the Christian faith coined...before Christianity humility was not counted as a virtue at all. The ancient world looked on humility as a thing to be despised.”* **William Barclay**

- **Gentleness** – Power under control.
- **Patience** – Literally “*long-tempered*,” not easily agitated or angered.
- **Love** – Unconquerable benevolence that will never seek anything but someone’s highest possible good.

*“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us & gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering & sacrifice to God.”*

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

- **Unity** – Though we are made up of many different parts, we have unity in the Holy Spirit. Unity is not Uniformity!

*“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male & female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* **Galatians 3:27-28**

- **Peace** – Shalom: Wholeness & completeness with God & man.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”* **Galatians 5:22-23**

What if God is using this season of house arrest to help you find the spiritual maturity you lack? God may be controlling your environment so you can produce spiritual fruit like never before!

**How is This Possible?** *“But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”* **Ephesians 4:7**

**Maturity comes when we embrace sound doctrine from God’s word & flesh it out in faithful obedience to God’s word.**

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son (doctrine), that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (obedience).”* **John 3:16**

**Doctrine:** Jesus died for your sins on the cross & rose again three days later.

**Obedience:** Turn to Him by faith and be saved!

**Ultimate Result:** Maturity

##### **Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *1001 Humorous Illustrations* – Michael Hodgin (1994)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Letter to the Ephesians* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Holman Commentary: Ephesians* – K.O. Gangel (1998)
- *Ephesians* – Kent Hughes (1996)
- *MacArthur NT Commentary: Ephesians* – John MacArthur (2011)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – W.A. Elwell & P.W. Comfort (2001)
- *A Man of Grace & Grit: Paul* – Charles Swindoll (2002)
- *5 Who Were Productive in Quarantine* – Michele Debczak (2020)

