

Vital Signs

By Dan Daugherty

We are all treasure in jars of clay! We all have the power to change others' eternity!

"Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." Ephesians 4:12-15 NLT

What is Maturity?

Maturity is being in love, because it is selfless and willing to put others *before* themselves. People who are in love – stir up, give up, step up and build up!
"Keep yourself in the love of God." Jude 21

Vital Signs

Spiritual Indicators That Reveal: Healthy Maturity Or Immaturity

1. ATTENDANCE = Proximity

- Stir Up Love
- "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV
- Love isn't a feeling! If it were - we wouldn't need each other. Love must be "stirred" up!
- Proximity – the power of showing up – When Christ in you shows up all the boats in the harbor rise!
- Your story matters = Your Significance
- The other's story matters = Power In Listening
- Not neglecting to meet together. We ALL need community.
- Spirit to Spirit transmission changes US! (Technology informs. Proximity transforms!)

2. SERVING = Establishes Unity

- The Power to / Show up / Step Up!
- [Their responsibility] "is to equip God's people to do his work. This will continue until we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of God's Son." Ephesians 4:12-13
- The SUM is greater than its part!
- Serving IS vital (Church/Work/Community/House) because when we CONTRIBUTE more than we CONSUME we add value!
- When we add value, we experience FULFILLMENT!
- Ownership creates Family
- Family Creates SAFETY
- Safety Generates Growth
- Growth Reinforces Transformation

3. GIVING = Connects your Heart

- "Where your treasure is, your heart [desires] will be" Matthew 6:21
- Think about this! When we Show up, Step up, Give up...
- "We have this treasure [God the Holy Spirit] in jars of clay [humanity] to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:7
- God put his treasure in us to GIVE.
- Why does God "treasure / love you TODAY? ... because the FATHER gave His TREASURE [Jesus]

- Outcome: God's heart is CONNECTED to you!
- The question is, is how connected are our hearts to Him?

4. GROUPS = Establishes Maturity

- "... so that we will be mature in the Lord measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." Ephesians 4:13
- The goal of maturity is not just serving, but ministering Christ LIFE!
- To minister we have to be mature in the Lord.
- Is the truth of God's Word true in me? We all need to still be actively growing.
- We can't be stirred alone! We can't be matured alone!