

1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4

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Introduction: Paul describes a family of believers with varying levels of maturity; infants, children, and grown-ups.

Aim: Grow in Christ.

Mature Message of Wisdom:

- **2:6-7** We speak of God's secret, ancient, glorious wisdom among the mature.
- **2:8** If rulers of this age understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
 - Children are born helpless and grow into independence, but Christians must mature to recognize their total dependence upon God. How much do I prize (the illusions of) independence and self-sufficiency?
 - God destined me for glory before time began. (v7) How far short of God's glorious plan did I settle last week?
 - Who is the ruler of this age? (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) If the demonic rulers had understood God's plan to defeat them at Calvary, would they still have tried to kill Jesus?
 - Wisdom does not crucify Jesus. (v8) What foolishness did I tack onto the cross in the past week?

Role of the Spirit:

- **2:9-11** By His Spirit, God reveals what He has prepared for those who love Him.
- **2:12-13** Spirit searches all things, even deep things of God, that we may understand what God has given us.

- 2:14 Natural man without the Spirit cannot accept/understand spiritual things.
 - 2:15 Spiritual man appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. (NASB)
 - 2:16 But we have the mind of Christ [!]
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- Google searches a few things and is paid to point to an advertiser; the Spirit searches all things and always points to the Truth. Am I using the best search engine? How acquainted am I with the user interface? (Dan 6:10-11; Eph 6:18)
 - Consider that God knows “all things” - He designed and created them out of nothing! Whether past/present/future/beyond time, physical/emotional/spiritual, thought/word/deed, micro/macro, individuals/nations/worlds - whatever attempt we make to catalog God’s scope is inadequate. Praise Him for His omniscience! Where should we start our search? What should I look for?
 - The message of wisdom first seeks to know God (Ex 33:13; Php 3:10), and then to properly see myself. What is the gap between my self-perception and God’s view of me? Will I ask the Spirit to search me? (Ps 139:23) What will I do when God reveals differences?
 - The unsaved person cannot understand the Christian, they live in two different worlds. But the Christian understands the unsaved person. What responsibility comes with this added understanding provided by the Spirit?
 - My mind harbors my thoughts. God designed me so that I cannot think two thoughts at the same time; when thinking what is right, I cannot be thinking what is wrong. What does it mean to have the mind of Christ? What thoughts of mine over the last week would be filtered out by the mind of Christ? (Php 4:8; 2Co 10:5)

Grow up!

- 3:1-2 I addressed you as infants in Christ, still not ready for solid food.
- 3:3-4 You are still of the flesh - jealousy and strife reveal merely human behavior.
- Many homes have a wall marking the yearly growth of their children. Why are children so eager to grow? What benefits come with growth? What growing pains?
- Unlike physical growth, spiritual growth involves my will. What excuse do I use to avoid growth in Christ? Will I ask God for spiritual growth?
- Diet is a key ingredient for growth. What is on my spiritual menu? Do I plan, prepare, and sit down to nourishing meals, or do I grab whatever I can find on the go? Do I feast on Sunday and starve the rest of the week? How can I eat for healthy spiritual growth?
- Jesus loves to feed people. (Jn 4:32; Mt 14:13-21) Seek out someone who is on a steady diet of His Word and ask if you can join them.

Conclusion:

Maturity is not measured by how much we know, but on how yielded we are to the Holy Spirit.

- How dependent are you on God? (Pr 3:5-6) How long do you go without Him?
- How much do you love God? Jesus says to measure this a couple of ways:
 - How obedient are you to God? (Jn 14:15)
 - How much do you love your brother? (1Jn 4:20-21)
- How fruitful are you? (Mt 7:20; 13:23; Jn 15:1-8; Gal 5:22)