

DOCTRINE OF MATURITY

I. Introduction.

- A. Maturity is one of 3 adjustments that God requires of every person. *See Doctrine of the Adjustments to the Justice of God*
 - 1. The SAJG (salvation Ph₁) is a one time application of faith in the Person of Christ as the object of faith, resulting in eternal salvation. Joh.3:16 *See Doctrines of Salvation Ph₁ and Eternal Security*
 - 2. The R_BAJG restores the believer that sins to fellowship with God enabling the believer to glorify God in the flesh. 1Joh.1:9 *See Doctrine of Rebound*
 - 3. The MAJG (salvation Ph₂) is the process of “growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ” over an extended period of time. 2Pet.3:18
- B. The maturity adjustment demands compliance to the other 2 adjustments apart from which maturity is moot and unattainable.
- C. Maturity is the natural result of the believer’s time and grade in adhering to sound BD.
- D. Time is relative to grade as seen in the fact that some believers mature faster than others.
- E. Maturity is a certain level of spiritual attainment in which the believer evidences an understanding and application of BD characterizing a fully developed Christian.
- F. The believer’s pursuit for maturity is commanded. Heb.6:1

II. Vocabulary.

A. Hebrew:

- 1. תָּמִים – tamim; noun; used 90x; blameless (NAS), complete, perfect, without defect or blemish. Of maturity Gen.6:9; 17:1; Psa.101:6
- 2. תָּם – tam; adj.; used 15x; complete, blameless man, guiltless, integrity, perfect one. Of maturity Job 1:1,8; 2:3
- 3. תָּמַם – tamam; verb; used 64x; to be complete, finished, to show blameless.
- 4. Speech with tamim (Amo.5:10) corresponds to that in accord with truth and fact: Job 36:4, “*For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you*”.
- 5. In the absolute sense, Yaweh’s acts/works (Deu.32:4; 2Sam.22:31) and Law (Psa.19:7) are tamim.
- 6. These cognates are used in connection with believers to include:
 - a. Assertions that the speaker is innocent of particular crimes laid to his account.
 - b. General professions of integrity of purpose.
 - c. Maturity.

B. Greek.

- 1. τέλειος – teleios; adj.; used 19x; complete or perfect. Of maturity, Eph.4:13; Col.1:28; Heb.5:14; Jam.1:4
- 2. τελειόω – teleioo; verb; used 23x; to make perfect; of maturity, Phi.3:12

3. τελειότης – teleiotes; noun; used 2x; state of being in completion, perfection; of maturity Heb.6:1
4. τελεσφορέω – telesphoreo; verb; hapax; to bring forth fruit to maturity; Luk.8:14; indicates a fully developed portfolio of Divine good production associated with the mature believer.
5. ἄμωμος – amomos; adj.; used 7x; blameless; of maturity, Jud.24.
6. ἄμεμπτος – amemptos; adj.; used 5 times; blameless, faultless, without guilt; of maturity Phi.2:15.
7. ἀλώμητος – amometos; adj.; hapax; blameless, without reproach. 2Pet.3:14

- III.** Maturity is the 3rd stage or level of spiritual growth.
- A. As viewed in the 3 levels of growth in the parable of the grain. Mar.4:26-29: *Blade = spiritual infant; formed head = believer as adolescence; mature grain = spiritually mature.*
 - B. As paralleled with the 3 levels of human development as a child, adolescent and adult. 1Joh.2:12-14
 - C. Some doctrine is only going to be assimilated by the mature believer. Heb.5:11-14
- IV.** Essential ingredients to attain to maturity.
- A. Consistent face-to-face teaching under right P-T over the long haul. Heb.10:24; 2Pet.3:18 cp.Eph.4:11-13 *for the purpose of pastoral office.*
 - B. Maintenance of the FHS versus domination of rulership of the STA. *See Doctrine of the STA/OSN*
 - C. Orientation and acclimation to our tests in life and our niche in general. Jam.1:2-4, 9-10
 - D. Exercising complete faith (+V) not doubting the truth of God. Jam.1:5-8
 - E. Application of faith plus works, as there is no maturity adjustment apart from works. Luk.8:14; Joh.15:1-11; Jam.2:15-26
 - F. The mature believer ceases from energy of the flesh applying faith-rest at a high level as noted in the Doctrine of Rest. Heb.4:11
- V.** Testing and the maturity adjustment. Jam.1:2-4
- A. The believer must focus on BD in order to have +H under testing.
 - B. Passing tests develops the quality of patient enduring, a.k.a. faith-rest. *See Doctrine of Faith-Rest*
 - C. Endurance over time eventuates in maturity.
 - D. Maturity is a natural result of BD working in the believer's life test and not as a result of something contrived or invented through human intellect, emotions or mysticism.
 - E. A wide variety of testing on the glory road awaits each believer. *See Doctrines of Testing and Suffering.*
 - F. The alternative is reversionism via miss-acclimation. Heb.10:32-39

- VI.** Attaining to maturity does not demand sinless perfection. 1Kgs.8:46; Pro.20:9; Ecc.7:20
- A.** This is not license for rationalization or indifference to sin on the part of believers. 1Joh.2:1
 - B.** While mature believers sin and recognize it (Jam.3:2), they do disclaim all fellowship with the wicked (Psa.1; Jam.4:4) from whom they expect to be distinguished in the course of providence.
- VII.** Some examples of mature believers in the OT.
- A.** Enoch. Gen.5:21-24
 - B.** Noah. Gen.6:8,9
 - C.** Job. Job 1:1; 2:3
 - D.** Abraham. Gen.17:1
 - E.** The Hall of Fame roster of the spiritually elite presented in Heb.11
- VIII.** Characteristics of the mature believer.
- A.** Is informed with respect to the realm of BD. Rom.15:14
 - B.** Has an abundance of Divine good production. 2Tim.3:16,17
 - C.** There is a Sarah's daughter designation for the ladies. 1Pet.3:1-6
 - D.** Places a higher premium on relationship with God over people or things. Gen.22:1-19
 - E.** Demonstrates control of the tongue. Jam.3:2
 - F.** Is stable and dependable in contrast to the double-souled man. Jam.1:5-8
 - G.** Keeps God's commands. Gen.26:5
- IX.** Blessings associated with maturity. Psa.119:1
- A.** Deliverance and protection in the A/C. Pro.13:6; 28:18
 - B.** God greases their skids. Pro.11:5
 - C.** Inherits temporal blessings. Gen.24:1; Pro.28:10
 - D.** Is God's delight. Pro.11:20
 - E.** God honor's them. Psa.101:6
 - F.** Are in line to receive the ultimate of eternal blessings of the wreath or prize and all the honor and prestige associated with it, if they hold to the end. Jam.1:12; Rev.2:10, 26-27
- X.** Maturity is to be the objective of the ministry of the local church. Col.1:28 *"And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ"*.
- XI.** The humanity of the Son of God attained maturity. Heb.5:8-9 cp.Luk.2:52

*"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
and to make you stand in the presence of His glory
blameless with great joy."*

Jud.24