

# Sermon Notes



## 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

**What is an immature Christian? How can I avoid it?**

**What is a mature Christian? How can I cultivate spiritual maturity?**

**Big Idea: Cultivate your life for growth by regular surrender.**

### **A. Immaturity**

#### **1. Spiritual Immaturity is Stinky** (1 Corinthians 3:1)

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

#### **2. Spiritual Immaturity is related to “Diet”** (1 Corinthians 3:2)

<sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,

#### **Hebrews 5:12b**

“...You need milk, not solid food, ...”

#### **Milk: Hebrews 6:1-2**

“Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> and

of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.”

<p><b>Milk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Turn to Jesus who died for your sins.</li> <li>-Put your faith in Jesus.</li> <li>-Do church things.</li> <li>-Get prayed for.</li> <li>-Appreciate the resurrection.</li> <li>-Know that God will judge the world.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meat</b></p>
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**Hebrews 5:13-14**

”...for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

<p><b>Milk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Turn to Jesus who died for your sins.</li> <li>-Put your faith in Jesus.</li> <li>-Do church things.</li> <li>-Get prayed for.</li> <li>-Appreciate the resurrection.</li> <li>-Know that God will judge the world.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-I can identify good and evil.</li> <li>-I am applying what I’m learning.</li> <li>-I am getting better at following Jesus.</li> <li>-I can sense the Holy Spirit helping me.</li> <li>-I am loving God and others.</li> </ul>
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Living your Gospel ID!

- Work
- Relationships
- Forgiveness
- Conversation
- Conflict
- Addiction
- Success

**3. Spiritual Immaturity Manifests itself in Relationships** (1 Corinthians 3:3-4)

<sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

- Reformed vs. Contemporary
- Traditional vs. Hipsters
- Emotion in Worship vs. Reserved
- Serving Community Needs vs. Speaking the Gospel

**Big Idea: Cultivate your life for growth by regular surrender.**

**B. Marks of Maturity** (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

**1. Servant** (1 Corinthians 3:5)

<sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.

**2. Cultivator** (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

<sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

**3. Team Player** (1 Corinthians 3:8-9)

<sup>8</sup> He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

**Big Idea: Cultivate your life for growth by regular surrender.**

**John 12:24-25**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>"He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

# Study Guide



## 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

**Big Idea: Cultivate your life for growth by regular surrender.**

### Introduction

Share with the room why you are so proud to be known as a mature Christian (*kidding*). Seriously, spiritual maturity is not binary, it's dynamic. Share some marks of maturity in your life and some marks of immaturity depending on seasons you have had.

**A. Immaturity.** Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1. Spiritual Immaturity is Stinky (1 Corinthians 3:1)

It had been 5 years since the church was started and the believers should have been further along. (like a 5-year-old with a stinky diaper). *Share any observations you have made of what it looks like to be an immature Christian. What are some traits?*

2. Spiritual Immaturity is related to "Diet" (1 Corinthians 3:2)

Read Hebrews 6:1-2 and discuss the traits of "milk" Christianity.

Read Hebrews 5:13-14 to discuss the traits of "meat" Christianity.

What does it mean in your life to have your "... *powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*"? Discuss.

3. Spiritual Immaturity Manifests itself in Relationships (1 Corinthians 3:3-4)

Notice that result of immature Christianity is "jealousy" and "strife". What was happening in the church at Corinth? How do we act "merely human" by creating divisions in relationships? Discuss.

**B. Maturity.** Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Discuss the following marks of maturity.

- 1. Servant** (1 Corinthians 3:5). Mature believers view themselves as “servants” and thus have surrendered their right to call the shots.
- 2. Cultivator** (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). Mature believers have surrendered the need for significance.
- 3. Team Player** (1 Corinthians 3:8-9). Mature believers view themselves as part of a whole, not as individualists.

**Big Idea: Cultivate your life for growth by regular surrender.**

By way of application, prayerfully read the following passage and take some quiet time to pray and ask God to reveal areas in your life you may need to surrender or re-surrender to Him.

**John 12:24-25** "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>"He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.