Some Marks of Spiritual Maturity
1 Cor. 14:20

Introduction:
A. Spiritual maturity solves a lot of problems – for church and personal lives.
B. Spiritual maturity is God’s objective for Christians (Eph. 4:14)
C. Spiritual maturity is lacking in too many of us.
   1. Not that we have not had time, but because we are not applying ourselves.
   2. Sadly, the more immature one is the less his recognizes the fact.
D. Spiritual maturity is identified in N.T. by certain marks.

Discussion:

I. The Ability To Appreciate The Wisdom Of God (1 Cor. 2:6)
A. The immature are impressed by sensationalism.
   1. Are impressed by visible signs. (1:22)
   2. Are impressed by sophistry of human wisdom. (1:22)
   3. Are impressed by oratorical power. (2:4)
B. The mature are impressed by the power of the gospel.
   1. To them the simple gospel is God’s power. (1:18)
   2. To them the simple preaching of Christ is enough. (1:2)
      a. Without the persuasive words characteristic of human wisdom. (2:4,5).
      b. With the wisdom of God revealed by the Spirit of God. (2:7-13)

II. The Ability To Properly Evaluate Man’s Role In God’s Plan (1 Cor. 3:1-5)
A. The immature tend to follow God’s servants rather than God.
   1. Generates envy and strife between devotees to each man. (3:3)
   2. Causes arrogance on behalf of “favorites”. (4:6)
B. The mature are able to put God’s servants in proper light.
   1. They appreciate them as God’s workmen. (3:5-10)
   2. They receive, love, and honor them as much appreciated gifts from God. (3:21-23; 4:1)

III. The Ability To Understand What Edifies The Church. (1 Cor. 14:20)
A. The immature would tend be overly fascinated with tongue speaking.
   1. Did not understand purpose of tongues. (14:22)
   2. Did not understand how useless they were for edification. (14:19)
   3. All such tend to go more for novel and show rather than substance.
B. The mature would go for edification value rather than sensational value.
   1. If tongues, then an interpreter so people can understand and learn.
   2. They put emphasis on understandability more than excitability.

IV. The Ability to Spot False Teaching (Eph. 4:13-14)
A. Well grounded in truth (v. 15)
B. Not easily deceived.

V. The Ability Offer Reasonable Criticism. (Matt. 11:16-19)
A. Like children playing in market place.
   1. Played happy game - others did not like it.
   2. Played sad game - others did not like it.
B. John and Jesus did opposite - Immature generation criticized them both.

VI. The Ability To Digest Strong Spiritual Food (Heb. 5:12-14)
A. The immature only appreciates most elementary teaching.
   1. Is unskilled on word of righteousness.
   2. Does like to have to think (discern) - wants things overly simplified.
B. The mature appreciates teaching challenges his thinking beyond first principles.
   1. He wants to skilled in his use of the word of God.
   2. He works at increasing his ability to "discern between good and evil".

Conclusion:
A. How mature are you? More than a year ago?
B. What are you doing to improve your maturity?