

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

#6

The 6 Levels of Spiritual Growth – Pt. 5

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

- **True spiritual maturity is the ability to recognize what is right and what is wrong.**

Hebrews 5:13-14 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1. A Babe

1 Pet 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

- **A babe is one that needs to be fed and nourished.**
- **The main goal for a baby Christian is growth.**

2. A Child

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

1 John 2:1a My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not ...

- **A child is one that needs to be trained.**
- **The main goal for a child is learning the fear of the Lord.**

3. A Son

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

- **The son is one who is in the likeness of his father.**
- **The spiritual goal is to demonstrate God's righteousness in his life.**

4. A Disciple

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- **A disciple is one who embraces the instruction given to him and makes it his rule of conduct.**

CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS LEVEL:

a. They will experience rejection.

Matthew 10:14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

b. God's word lives in them.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

c. They bear spiritual fruit in their lives.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

d. They accept the requirements of discipleship.

Luke 14:26-27, 33 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- **The spiritual goal is to know God's truth and experience freedom in life.**

5. A _____

1 Thes. 2:11-12 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, 12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory

- **A spiritual parent is one who helps another to _____ Christ and the _____ faith.**

2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

3 John 3-4 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS LEVEL:

a. *They _____ deeply about others _____ life.*

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.

- Notice his goals for them, what he worked for:
 - **Christ-like** _____

Rom. 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son . . .

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world . . .

- _____ **Progress**
- **Inward** _____

Rom. 12:2b . . . but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God

b. *They seek to share _____.*

Proverbs 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

- **Wisdom-** The ability to make God's word a _____ in my life.

c. They share _____.

Proverbs 1:9 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Pro. 1:15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path.

d. They give _____

Psa. 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

2 Cor. 1:3-6 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. 6 And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

- **The spiritual goal is to _____ other believers. God's goal for us is to grow into _____ believers so we can reproduce ourselves.**
- Questions to ask and reflect on for personal evaluation:
 - *Are you willing to _____ to help someone in their faith?*
 - *Do you genuinely _____ about the spiritual life of those in your church?*
 - *Are you _____ anything that you can share with others?*
 - *Are you willing to be _____ with others about the truth?*
 - *Do you seek to _____ others with your words?*
 - *Have you taken initiative to go to someone going through a _____ time and encourage them?*