

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP #7

The 6 Levels of Spiritual Growth – Pt. 6

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

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

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

5. A Parent

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 accept Christ and the Christian faith.**
- Characteristics of this level;

a. They care deeply about others Christian life.

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

b. They seek to share wisdom.

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

c. They share warnings.

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

d. They give comfort

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

- **The spiritual goal is to reproduce other believers. God's goal for us is to grow into mature believers so we can reproduce ourselves.**

6. A _____

2 Tim 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

- **A teacher is one who studies and understands God's _____ and also shares them with others. They desire to see others grow spiritually so they in turn can help _____ grow spiritually.**
- Characteristics of this level:

a. They must have _____

Romans 2:21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?

b. They are held to a _____ standard.

James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

c. They look for _____ individuals to invest in.

2 Tim 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

○ **It's about 2 things:**

- _____ Inwardly.
- _____ Outwardly.

d. They desire to know the _____.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Pet. 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue

e. They will expose their error.

2 Timothy 4:2-3 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.

- **The spiritual goal of a teacher is to _____ other believers to help fulfill the great _____.**
- Questions to ask and reflect on for personal evaluation:
 - *Are you allowing a _____ in your life that no one knows about?*
 - *Are you willing to follow God's _____ of conduct?*
 - *Do you seek those who are _____ and strive to help them grow in their faith?*
 - *Do you know _____ you believe and why?*
 - *Are you easily _____ or can you spot false teaching?*
- As we finish this series let me give some practical steps of advice to take with us.
 - ***Keep track of your spiritual _____.***
 - ***Know where your spiritual _____ is.***
 - ***Always be _____ up.***
 - ***Be careful that you don't _____ back.***
 - ***Be understanding of _____ spiritual maturity level.***