

GROWING INTO MATURITY

Maturity defined - It is the process of moving from infancy into adulthood. Growing into responsibility and authority with God's timing. Full maturity brings us to handling life with the full measure of the nature and character of God. Eph. 3:19

There are six specific words in scripture that define and describe it.

- I. Napios – baby, infant child. Literally means “no speech”
I Cor. 3:1; 14:20; Heb. 5:1; Eph. 4:14

- II. Paidion – a child suggesting ages 2-10.
Luke 1:80; 2:40; John 21:5; I John 2:13,18.

- III. Teknon – teenager. A dangerous time because they know more than adults. There is an entitlement mentality. Authority under supervision.
Romans 8:16-17; John 1:12; I John 2:1, 12, 28; 3:1

- IV. Huios – sonship. About age 30 or so. Maturity has developed so as to be able to take over the family business. Ready for authority without supervision. Test ready.
Romans 8:14, 19; Matt. 3:17; 17:5; Hebrews 1:2; 2:10

- V. Neanis – young man about 40. Military leadership. A commander.
Matt. 19:20-21 “rich young ruler”. I John 2:13-14

- VI. Pater – father. A man with white hair. Reproduction has paid off. He surrounds himself with those he has taught. Dignity in legacy.
I John 2:13, 14, 24; 3:1, 2, 10; 5:2

We must come to realize that we may not be as mature as we think. Yet some are more mature than they think. They may fear responsibility and the call to leadership. God is suggesting that we confess our maturity level with him and each other. Let God stretch you. Grow into your shoes. You may have maturity in one gift and calling but not in another.

We need fathers that believe in the maturity of their sons. Those who have faith as a child, fathers who dream with the children. Fathers who meditate on their visions.

Fathers do not have a trail of confusion or division with conflict and controversy. They have a legacy of kingdom building character.

So let us choose now to accept the place of maturity we have and take the steps in faith believing that God is bringing us into full and complete maturity.

Blessings on you!!