

A STUDY IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Mature Christians
1 Corinthians 2:1-3:4

Our next unit of study will be on *Spiritual Maturity* as discussed in *1 Corinthians 2:1-3:4*. The goal is to help us understand the characteristics of the truly *spiritual* life as opposed to false spirituality and other forms of worldliness.

I would encourage you to read the entire book of 1 Corinthians to get the setting, but here is some quick background. In Paul's letters, he always talks about *faith*, *hope*, and *love* in his opening remarks ... except when writing to them. They were a church proud of their faith as evidenced by their spiritual gifts (and extra long services), but they were not acting in love towards one another.

It was a church dealing with *factionalism*. Everyone was divided over who was the best preacher, *Swindoll*, *MacArthur*, *Piper*, or *Jeremiah*. Actually, discovering their four factions is your first study question.

1. Who were the four men over which the believers in Corinth were separating into factions? Be sure to give chapter and verse to support your answer

- _____ *1 Corinthians*
- _____ *1 Corinthians*
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- _____ *1 Corinthians*

The first group Paul mentions incidentally are the unsaved people of the world (2:4-5, 14) followed closely by the second group, the mature (2:6).

2. Consider what the following Scriptures teach us about the **mature Christian**:

- *Mt 5:48*
- *Mt 19:21*
- *Rom 12:2*
- *1 Cor 2:6*
- *1 Cor 14:20*
- *Eph 4:13; Col 1:28*
- *Phil 3:15*
- *Col 4:12*
- *Heb 5:14*
- *James 1:4*
- *James 1:25*
- *James 3:2*
- *1 John 4:18*

3. After you have looked up and compared the above verses, write a summary of what a mature Christian looks like.

4. What are the four Characteristics of a mature Christian?

(2:1-5)

(3:1)

(2:15)

(3:3)

5. What should be the goal of every mature Christian? (Eph. 4:13)

6. What controls a mature Christian? (2:12-13)