

“Praying to the Bottom of Things”

pt. 4 — Philippians 1:9-11

To Live is Christ

INTRODUCTION

- spiritual maturity takes time

“When you disciple someone, you’re basically teaching him to live a godly lifestyle. You’re teaching him biblical responses. A person is spiritually mature when his involuntary responses are godly. That’s how to know if the Spirit of God has control in someone’s life. In discipleship you’re to bring a person to the point where he doesn’t have to figure out how to act right because he can react right spontaneously.” — *John MacArthur*

- Paul’s energy toward other’s spiritual maturity
Col. 1:28-29; Gal. 4:19; Col. 2:1; 1 Thess. 2:9-12

“Maturity begins to grow when you can sense your concern for others outweighing your concern for yourself.”
— *John McNaughton*

1. Spiritually mature actions: love (1:9)

- agape love: a choice
- agape love: a choice that costs me
Eph. 5:25



Emmanuel Bible Notes

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- importance of agape love
 - a. leaves concrete evidence of salvation
1 Jn. 3:14; 4:20; Jn. 13:35
 - b. a fundamental means to glorify God
Jn. 15:8
 - c. commanded of my by Jesus
Jn. 13:34; 15:12, 17

- *abounding* in agape love

+ in “real knowledge”

+ in “all discernment”

2. Spiritually mature thinking: excellence (v. 10)

- “approve”
- “excellent things”
Phil. 4:8
- “sincere & blameless”

3. Spiritually mature motivation: God’s glory (v. 11)

Jn. 15:8; 1 Cor. 10:31

“Shun those studies in which the work that results lies with the worker.”
— *Leonardo de Vinci*