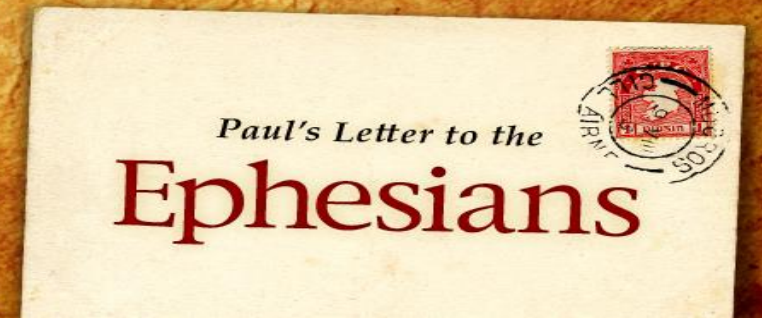


Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



Value of Ephesians

- Presents the purpose and plan of God for the Church
- Relation between positional truth and experiencing it in one's life – Position and Practice
- Supremacy of Christ in God's eternal plan
- Emphasizes God's sovereign grace in the lives of believers



EPHESIANS

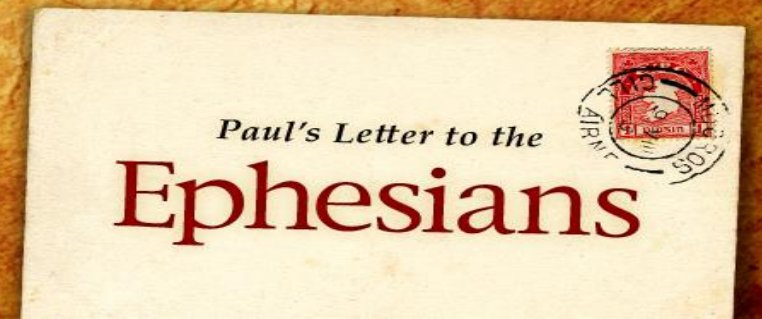
	Introduction (1:1-2) Our Position in Christ Section 1: What God has done for us (1) Emphasis: sovereignty Section 2: What Christ has done in us (2:1-10) Emphasis: grace Section 3: What Christ has done between us (2:11-3:21) Emphasis: reconciliation <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1-3	Our Practice on Earth Section 1: Our new unity (4:1-16) Section 2: Our new walk (4:17-6:9) Section 3: Our new strength (6:10-20) <i>CHAPTERS</i> 4-6
Emphasis	Doctrinal: vertical relationship with God	Practical: horizontal relationship with others
Core Phrase	"He chose us in Him." (1:4)	"Walk in a manner worthy of the calling." (4:1)
Subjects	Declarations of heavenly truths (God's accomplishments)	Exhortations for earthly living (Christians' assignments)
Prayers	Paul's prayer for Ephesians (1:15-23)	Paul's prayer for the whole church (3:14-21) Christians' prayers for one another (6:18-20)
Theme	The holy community God is creating and how it is to live out its calling	
Key Verses	1:9-10; 4:1-3	
Christ in Ephesians	Jesus is the source of spiritual blessing, the Cornerstone of the church, and the goal of spiritual maturity (1:3; 2:20; 4:11-16).	

Conclusion (6:21-24)



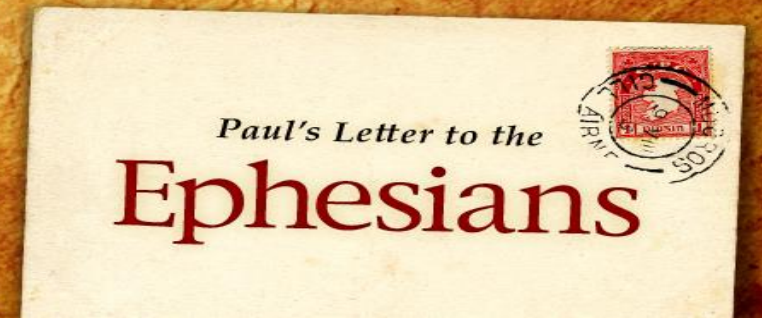
Book of Ephesians

- What it means to be in Christ
- What it means to be one with Christ
- What it means to be a part of the body of Christ, the church of which He is the head
- What it means to be master-planned into the body before the world began



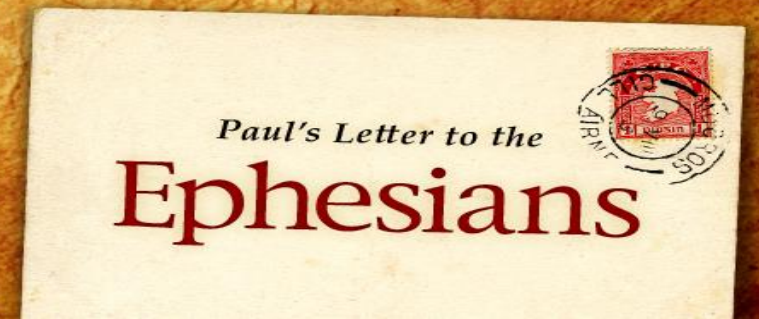
Worthy Walk

- Call to the Worthy Walk
- Characteristics of the Worthy Walk
- Causes of the Worthy Walk



Attitudes of Unity (Ephesians 4:1-3)

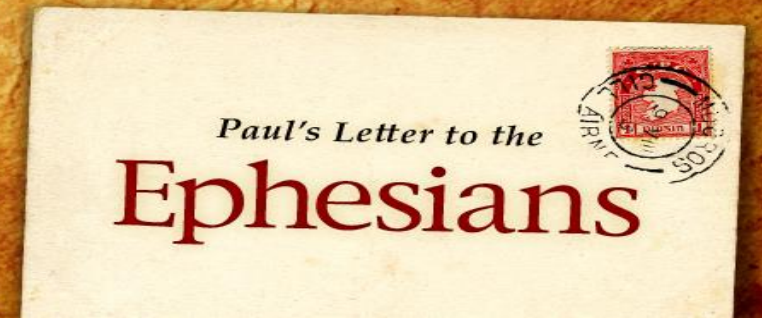
1. Lowliness
2. Gentleness
3. Long-suffering
4. Bearing with one another
5. In love
6. Endeavoring to keep the unity
7. In the bond of peace



7 Characteristics that Unify the Church

Ephesians 4:4-6

- 1. One Body**
- 2. One Spirit**
- 3. One Hope**
- 4. One Lord**
- 5. One Faith**
- 6. One Baptism**
- 7. One God and Father of all**



Ephesians 4:11-16 (KJV)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:



Ephesians 4:11-16 (KJV) cont.

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:



Ephesians 4:11-16 (KJV) cont.

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.



Nature of the Worthy Walk

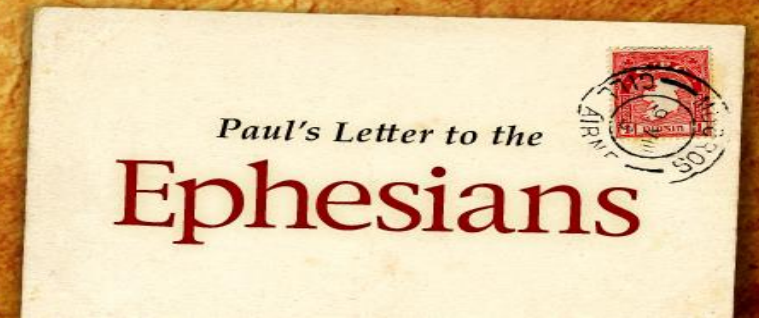
- Walk in Humility
- Walk of Unity
- Walk toward Maturity

Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



Principles from Ephesians 4:11-16

- The Christian is to represent Jesus in time on earth. (4:11)
- Neither apostles nor prophets (in the official sense) exist today. (4:11b)
- An evangelist catalytically makes the gospel compelling. (4:11c)
- The Savior gave what He received—people who would build the edification construct of the church. (4:11d)
- A purpose for the church is to be fully qualified to serve our Lord. (4:12)



Principles from Ephesians 4:11-16

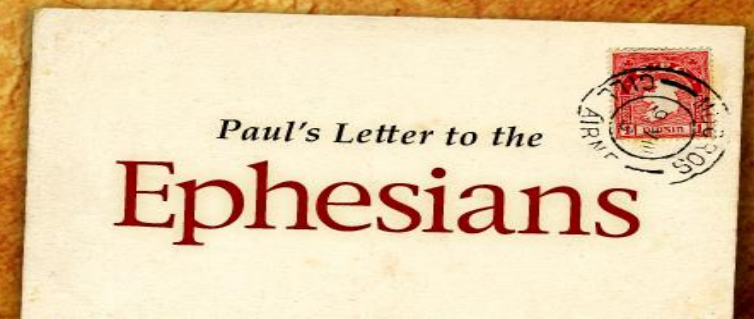
- The need of the local church is always spiritual maturity. (4:12b)
- God's goal for the church is to reach the point of edification construct. (4:13)
- The primary unity of the church comes from unity in what we believe. (4:13b)
- True unity of the faith is when we thoroughly know Christ, the object of our faith. (4:13c)
- To reach the ultimate stage of maturity, a church or believer requires a maximum or full amount of truth in the soul and its application to the life. (4:13d)

Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



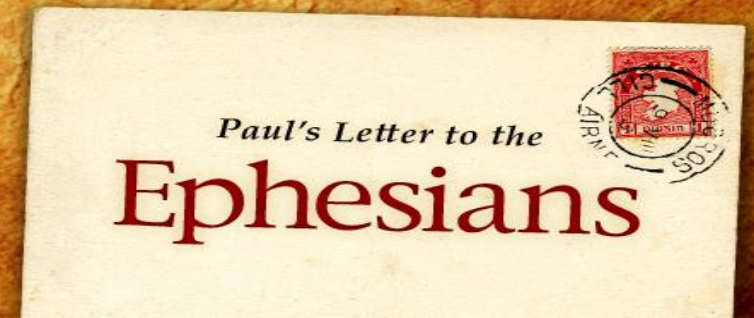
Principles from Ephesians 4:11-16

- The church is to live in a way that is worthy of Christ and glorifies Him. (4:13e)
- Believers and churches as a whole need to learn, digest, and apply truth to their souls. (4:14)
- Immature Christians and churches are susceptible to deception. (4:14b)
- The church today is susceptible to false teaching because it does not have a mature understanding of the Word. (4:14c)



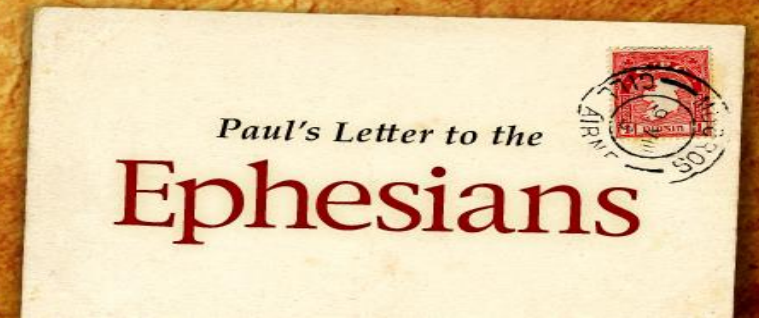
Principles from Ephesians 4:11-16

- The church that lacks solid Bible teaching will move into distortion either theologically or methodologically. (4:15)
- Maturity is the development of comprehensive likeness to Christ. (4:15b)
- Growth of the body has Christ as the goal. (4:15c)
- As the church listens to Bible exposition and saints work together, edification takes place. (4:16)
- The church is a complexity of many parts that must cooperate as one. (4:16b)



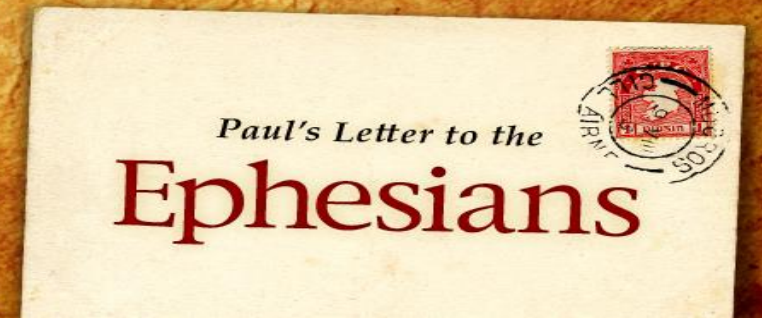
Principles from Ephesians 4:11-16

- Members of the body of Christ joining together or uniting together with their gifts produce growth in the church. (4:16c)
- Effective results in ministry come from members of the church working symmetrically together. (4:16d)
- Each believer has something to contribute to the edification of the church. (4:16e)
- The power of the church flows from Christ to the believer and then from believer to other believers. (4:16f)



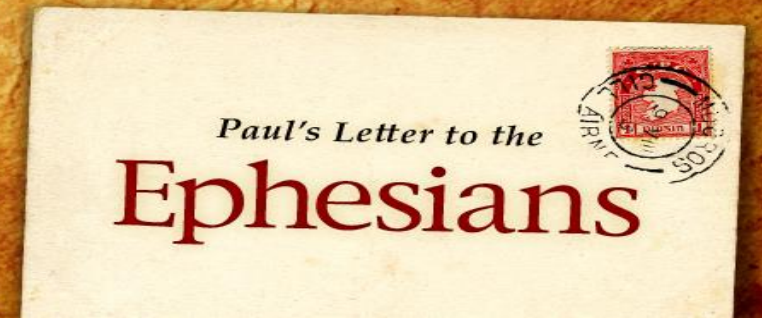
Process for Spirit-Filled Living

- **Salvation:** Christ gave His life **for us**
- **Sanctification:** Christ gives His life **to us**
- **Service:** Christ lives His life **through us – as us**



Myths about Maturity

- Maturity inevitable
- Maturity for super-saints
- Maturity measured by knowledge
- Maturity takes place in a vacuum
- Maturity is a straight line



Definition of Maturity

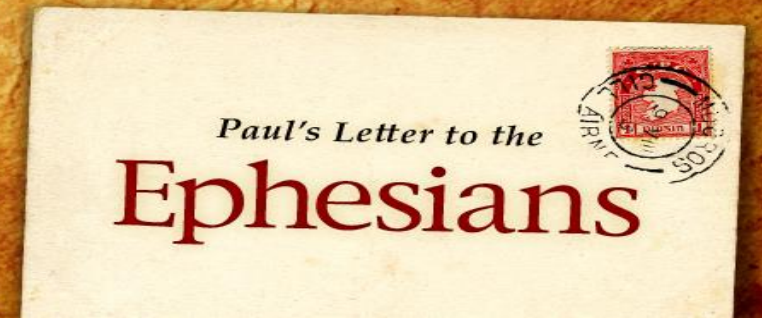
Maturity is a maximum application of the principles of Scripture to experience by faith that results in the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



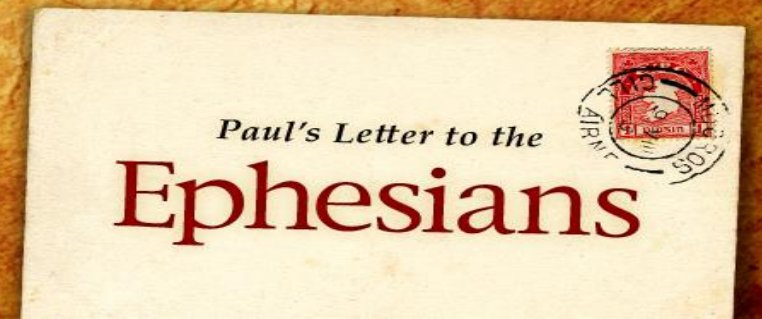
ADVANTAGES OF MATURITY

- Spiritual power
- Stability
- More in touch with God's viewpoint
- Know how to consult the source of truth
- Open to receive correction and apply truth to experience



THE GOAL OF MATURITY:

- To grow into the stature of the fullness of Christ (Php 3:8-16)
- Christ Himself is the objective standard for maturity (Eph 4:13)



SIGNS OF HUMAN IMMATURITY

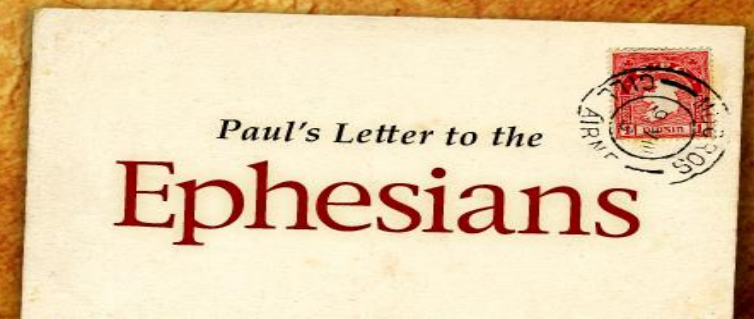
1. Emotional Instability
2. Inappropriate Dependence
3. Immediate Gratification
4. Self-Centeredness
5. Lacks Objectivity

Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



SCRIPTURAL IMMATURITY

- **Eph 4:13**, ...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect** [mature] man, **to the measure** [objective standard] of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
- **Eph 4:14**
that we should no longer be **children** [immature], **tossed to and fro** [like a ship without a rudder] and **carried about with every wind** [another nautical term] of doctrine, by the **trickery** of men [gambling term – play against loaded dice], in the **cunning craftiness** [scheming] of deceitful plotting



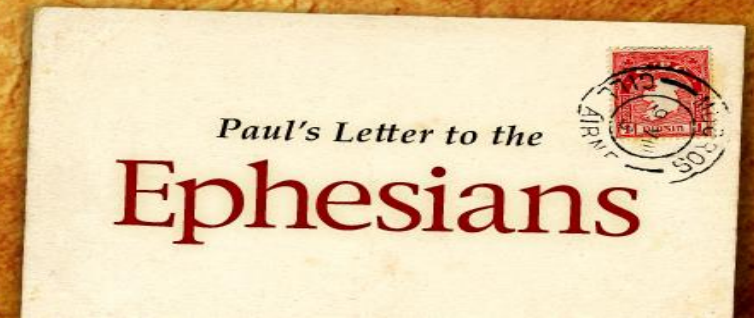
CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

1. Unstable – “tossed to and fro,” Eph 4:13

- Goes negative to God’s divine principles and depends on own fleeting judgment.

2. Lacks Discernment – “carried about with every wind,” Eph 4:13

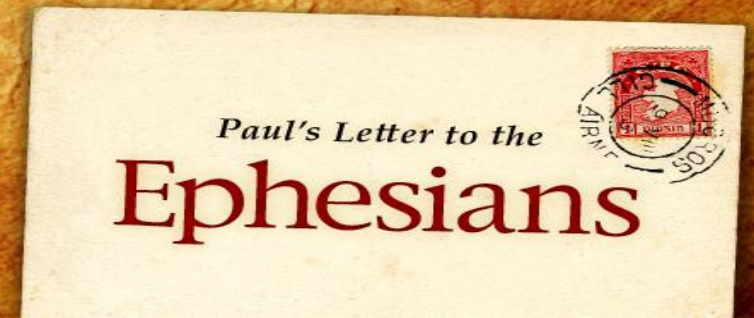
- Susceptible to influence without criteria to make judgment.
- Devoid of truth for discernment



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

3. Easily Fooled – “trickery of men,” Eph 4:13

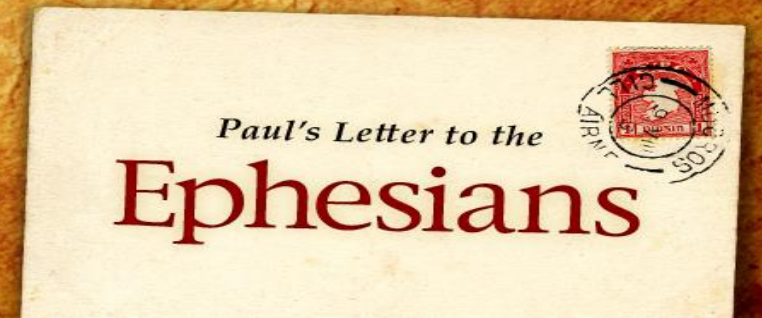
- Gambling metaphor = play against loaded dice – susceptible to deceit.
- Gambling against “loaded dice” of the devil without divine principles.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

4. Sucks in Empty Belief Systems

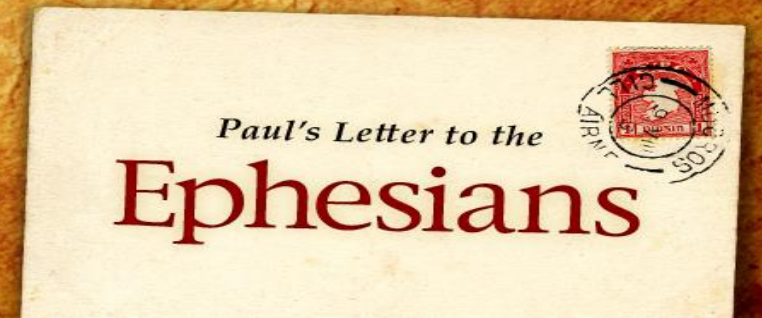
Eph 4:17, This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the **futility** [*vanity, emptiness* – devoid of divine principles] of their mind...



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

5. Lacks Edification Construct

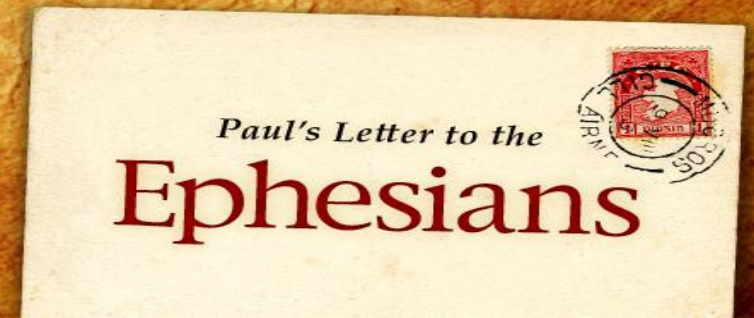
2 Pe 3:17-18, You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own **steadfastness** [no Edification Construct], being led away with the error of the wicked;18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

6. Flounders in Spiritual Soul-Kinks

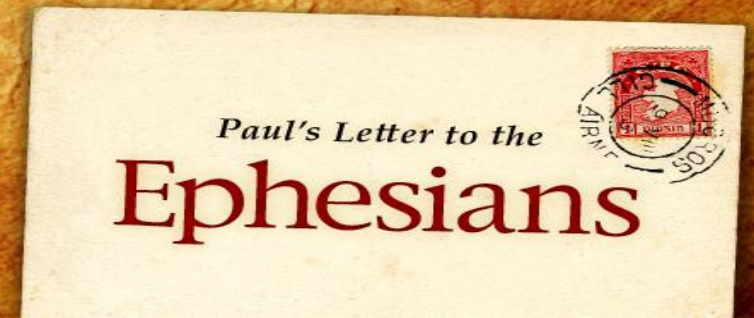
1 Pe 2:1-2, 1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 3:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

7. Cannot Assimilate Food of a Spiritual Adult

1 Co 3:1-2, 1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able...



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

8. Sluggish toward God's Word – “dull of hearing”

Heb. 5:11, ...of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing [sluggish toward truth].

Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

9. Not Informed Enough to Help Others Grow

Heb 5:12, For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

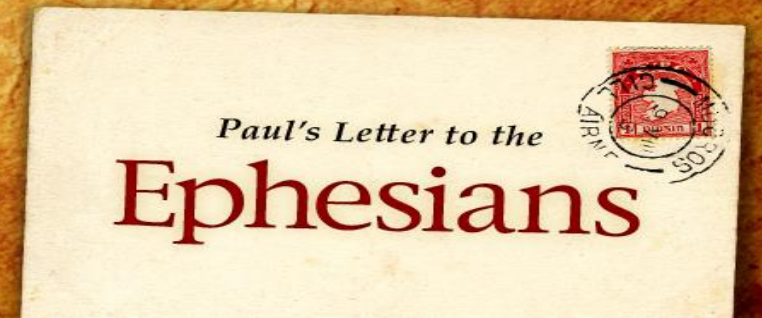
Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

10. Rarely Applies Principles to Experience

Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled [inexperienced in applying] in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

11. Undiscerning

Heb 5:14, But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised [application] to discern both good and evil.

Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY, cont.

12. Plateau on Basics

He 6:1, 3, 1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection [maturity]... 3 And this [go on to maturity] we will do if God permits.

Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



Paul's Letter to the
Ephesians



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