

Studies in

**MATURE
CHRISTIAN
LIVING**

Research Class

14 Lessons

Prepared by

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2000

Title Page

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. Welcome to a new & different Bible Class study.
 - a) You do the studying—I just help you to do it.
 - b) You will learn how to use some basic reference books:
 - Thesaurus
 - Version comparisons
 - Word Study Books
 - Interlinear N.T.
 - Concordance
 - English Dictionary
 - Topical Bible
 - Commentaries
 - Greek Lexicon
 - Etc.
 - c) You will learn how to arrive at correct conclusions:
 - From the facts.
 - From the Scriptures.
 - From an over-all picture.....not partial view.
2. Please be careful with the books.
3. Each of you will be expected to learn how to use all of the books.
 - a) Will be given an opportunity in class each time.
 - b) Use them more than once.
 - c) Share in using....learning from each other.
4. Fill in your sheet as you go.
5. Draw conclusions about each lesson.

BOOKS REQUIRED FOR STUDY

- 1. A Thesaurus**
- 2. An English Dictionary**
- 3. A Bible Dictionary**
- 4. A Word Study book on OT & NT words (Vine's, Wuest's, etc.**
- 5. The NT with 27 Comparison Versions or several other versions**
- 6. Greek-English Inter-Linear**
- 7. Greek Lexicon**
- 8. Young's or Strong's Complete Concordance**
- 9. Commentaries**
- 10. International Bible Encyclopedia**

There are other possible reference books that could be useful, but may be too advanced for beginners to use.

Research Class on Mature Christian Living

GREEK ALPHABET

<u>Letters</u>	<u>Letters</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Small</u>
A	α		Alpha	a as in	in father(long) a as in bat (short)
B	β		Beta		b as in ball
Γ	γ		Gamma		g as in gift
Δ	δ		Delta	d as in	debt
E	ε		Epsilon		e as in met
Z	ξ		Zeta		dz as in adz
H	η		Eta		e as in obey
Θ	θ		Theta	th as in	theme
I	ι		Iota		i as in magazine(long) i as in pit(short)
K	κ		Kappa	k as in	kin
Λ	λ		Lambda		l as in long
M	μ		Mu		m as in man
N	ν		Nu		n as in no
Ξ	ξ		Xi		x as in relax
O	ο		Omicron		o as in omelet
Π	π		Pi		p as in pay
P	ρ		Rho		r as in ring
Σ	σ, ς*		Sigma	s as in	sing
T	τ		Tau		t as in tale
Υ	υ		Upsilon		u as in unity
Φ	φ		Phi		ph as in phonetics
X	χ		Chi		ch as in chemical
Ψ	ψ		Psi		ps as in taps
Ω	ω, ω		Omega		o as in tone

(Page to Copy for Students to use in each Lesson)

I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:

A. Thesaurus

B. Dictionary

C. Bible Versions

D. Word Study

E. Inter-linear

F. Lexicon

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

A. Concordance

B. Ways Used in Bible

C. Bible Examples

III. APPLICATION:

A. Commentaries

B. Why is this concept Important to you?

Lesson One

“WHAT IS MATURITY?”

I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:

- G. Thesaurus** (Synonyms)—Perfection, Complete (model, standard, pattern, excellence, consummate, faultless, ideal, fulfillment, culmination, climax).
- H. Dictionary**—Final or desired state—full development—termination of period.
- I. Bible Versions**—Maturity, perfect, complete
- J. Word Study**—TELEIOS—Ended, Complete (Mt. 5:48; Jas. 1:4, 25; 1 Jn. 4:18)
 TELESPHOREO—To bear on to completion
 Or perfection. (Lk. 8:14)
 PLEROO—(Col. 2:10; Rev. 3:2)
 AKRIBOS—(Lk. 1:3; Acts 18:26; 1 Thess. 5:2)
 ARTIOS—(2 Tim. 3:17)
 KATARTIMOS—(Eph. 4:12)
- K. Inter-linear**—Perfect (Mt. 5:48)—Complete (2 Tim. 3:17)
- L. Lexicon**—State of completeness—full age—mature, etc.

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

- A. Concordance**—*Perfect, fitted, perfected—to fill, make full—ended, complete.*
 To make an end of, fit thoroughly, finished.
- B. Ways Used in Bible**—Of full age, perfect, ripe age, that which is perfect,
 To the end, perfection, performance, perfectness, finisher.
 Accomplish, fill up, make an end.
- C. Bible Examples**—Job 1:1, 8; 2:3
 (Mt. 5:48; 19:21; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:13; Phil. 3:15; Col. 1:28; 4:12; Heb. 9:11; Jas. 1:4, 17, 25; 3:2; 1 Jn. 4:18; 1 Cor. 2:6; 13:10; 1 Jn. 2:5; 4:12; Col. 3:14; Heb. 6:1; 7:11—Lk. 8:14; Col. 2:10; 4:12 Rev. 3:2—Lk. 1:3; Acts 18:26; 23:15, 20; 24:22; 1 Thess. 5:2; Acts 22:3—2 Tim. 3:17—Eph. 4:12)

III. APPLICATION:

Commentaries

Why is this concept Important to you?

IV. QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY:

1. Is it attaining as high as another person or as high as my possible self?
2. Is maturity ever complete or is it a continuing process until death?
3. Is it correct to say someone is mature, or that one person is more mature than another?
4. Is maturity a state of being or a state of becoming?
5. Would you equate wisdom and maturity as the same?
 - a) A mature person would be wise.
 - b) But wisdom can be misused.
6. How would you break down the states of maturing for a human?
 - a) Infancy—being formed.
 - b) Ages 7-13—Can begin to show signs of maturing.
 - c) Ages 14-20—Able to take almost complete charge.
 - d) Ages 21-39—Quite capable of applying your maturity to considerate area of problems.
 - e) Ages 40-59—Education & experience—good grip on things.
 - f) Ages 60-74—Gathering in fruits of long planting & tending....clear vision of final journey....plan with assurance.
 - g) Ages 75-death—Still growing, becoming—know how to bring your earthly voyage To a successful, peaceful conclusion.
7. How would you define maturity from the following standpoints:
 - a) MORAL—That which is good or bad for fellowman
 - b) THEOLOGICAL—That which is God's will and Satan's will.
 - c) PSYCHOLOGICAL—That which helps your person or harms it
 - d) SOCIOLOGICAL—That which helps to establish a stable & peaceful community.
Not that which creates social conflicts that results in strife,
Violence and war.
8. Can one be mature in one area of his life & immature in another?
9. Is mature and perfect the same idea?

10. How would you illustrate the concept of maturity of an individual as compared to other individuals?

- 10---Absolute Perfection
- 9---
- 8---
- 7---
- 6---
- 5---
- 4---
- 3---
- 2---
- 1---
- 0-----
- 1---
- 2---
- 3---
- 4---
- 5---
- 6---
- 7---
- 8---
- 9---
- 10---Depth of Immaturity

Is Mankind somewhere in between 1 and 9?

or

Could we place mankind somewhere between a minus 5 or 10 as greatly immature up to 7, 8, 9 as a very mature person?

11. Does maturity have anything to do with one's size?

12. Does it have to do with one's age?

- a) Only in a relative way.
- b) The elderly may be mature or not.
- c) How old is old?
 - During the middle ages, it was rare to find a 50 year old.
 - Joan of Arc was 17 when she led the army to take Orleans.
 - Alexander the Great was in his low 30's when he had no more worlds to conquer.
 - Napoleon was in his 30's when he became Emperor of France.

13. Can I.Q. be equated with maturity?

- a) A high I.Q. usually denotes one-sided person—not very good at being a mature human being.
- b) Sometimes the most intelligent parents are very immature in handling their children.

14. Is education an indication of maturity?

- a) Not necessarily.
- b) Can have a head full of knowledge, but not know how to use it well.
- c) People can be educated into mature actions.
 - Books of self-improvement
 - Points out wise ways of believing and behaving, and mature approaches to achieving in our society.

15. Does experience indicate maturity?

- a) The value of experience is obvious in many instances.
- b) We look for that person with insight, ability to handle situations, of dealing wisely with the questions of existence—competent man.
- c) However, maturity can come in spite of little experience.

16. Is sophistication a sign of maturity?

- a) No....even though they talk about “mature themes.”
- b) Some are more in bondage to the carnal.

17. Can maturity rub off on other people?**18. What is Immaturity?**

1. **Synonyms**—Unpreparedness, neglect, unripe, incomplete, Newness, Youth, New-born, unlearned.
2. **Dictionary**—Lacking complete growth, or development.
Crude, unfinished.
Due to undergo further changes.
3. **Places in Scripture where concept occurs:**
 - a) Not full-grown or full age (Heb. 5:12-14)
 - b) Newborn, babe (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:1-2)
 - c) Neglect (Heb. 2:3)

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

1. We will be contrasting the mature actions with immature actions throughout this study.
2. Quotations for your evaluation:

"The mature person is qualified to take life as it comes and handle it well.

And there is no guarantee that he will be happy, or always be free of pain, emotional or physical."

"The ability to discern the difference between that which is good and that which is bad—not only in the moral sense, but also in the practical sense, or being able to discern what in the long run is good or bad to live with and for."

"It is to be found dealing wisely with the phenomena of existence."

MATURITY

MATURITY is the ability to control anger, and settle differences without violence or destruction.

MATURITY is patience, the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure in favor of the long-term gain.

MATURITY is perseverance, sweating out a project in spite of opposition and discouraging setbacks.

MATURITY is unselfishness, responding to the needs of others.

MATURITY is the capacity to face unpleasantness and disappointment without becoming bitter.

MATURITY is humility. A mature person is able to say, *"I was wrong,"* and *"I am sorry."* When proven right, the mature person does not have to say, *"I told you so."*

MATURITY means dependability, integrity, keeping one's word. The immature have excuses for everything. They are chronically tardy, the no-shows, the ones who fold in a crisis. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, unfinished business and former friends.

MATURITY is the ability to live in peace with that which cannot change.

--Author Unknown

Lesson Two

“MATURITY: A SENSE OF REALITY”

I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:

Thesaurus—EXISTING—Reality, Fact, Actuality, not a dream, True

TRUE—Truth, Accuracy, Realism, Honest, Not an illusion, Genuine.

Dictionary—“*State of being, real, actual existence. Being real*

as opposed to Imaginary. Honesty, Uprightness, Integrity, Sincere.....accuracy of representation.”

Bible Versions--

Word Study—TRUTH (aletheuo)—Genuine, Truthful, Conforming to reality.

Matt. 22:16—True, Truthful

John 4:18—Conforming to reality

1 Thess. 1:9—Real, Ideal, Genuine

Inter-linear—Alethes (Truly)—Faced up to reality—real situation.

Lexicon

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

A. Concordance—True, Genuine, Honest, Sincere. (Mt. 22:16)
True, Real, Sincere, Veracious. (John 1:9)
Truly, Really, Certainly, Verily. (Matt. 14:33)
Stedfastness, Stability.

B. Ways Used in Bible—Fables, Myths, Stories, Narrative...but it is fiction. (1 Tim. 1:4; 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:4; Tit. 1:14; 2 Pet. 1:16)

C. Bible Examples—“Truly, Truly, I say unto you.” “Only true God.” “As it is in truth, the word of God.”
Ananias & Sapphira, Simon the Sorcerer, Diotrephes.

III. APPLICATION:

A. Commentaries

B. Why is this concept Important to you?

- 1) "Live in the real world...not a fantasy world."
- 2) Face up to reality, truth.
- 3) We need to be genuine, true, honest people.
- 4) No guile!
- 5) "Ability to see situation or difficulties in the light of facts and to deal with them practically, sensibly.
- 6) "A distorted sense of reality impairs the effectiveness and enjoyment of work and life. It creates a sense of insecurity and inferiority and leads to frustration."

IV. QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY:

1. **Do mature people have flights of fancy?**
 - a) **Yes, at times**
 - b) **But they take up their permanent residence in the world of fact & reality.**
 - c) **Imaginations may be exercised from time to time, but they deal with this world as they know it—solid, sometimes hard to take, but what must be done.**
2. **How is the immature person characterized in this matter?**
 - a) **Not mentally disturbed, nor neurotic.**
 - b) **But, it is to look at life from an essentially childish level.**
 - c) **Too much Hollywood ideas!**
3. **How soon does a child begin to realize this is not a dream world?**
 - a) **As soon as he realizes that he doesn't get what he wants every time.**
 - b) **He can see sorrow....at loss of special garment, toy, pet, parents, etc.**
4. **Should a child be allowed to attend funeral services at age 6 or 7?**
 - a) **Yes....They need to see the real world and face up to it.**
 - b) **He does not live in a make-believe world....but a real one.**
5. **Is there ever absolute peace of mind?**
 - a) **Why take anxiety pills then?**
6. **Can there be too much Tender Loving Care for children?**
 - a) **Yes—Children think that parents will forever shelter them and stand ready to ease their hurts and solve their problems for all his days.**
7. **Can wrong kind of heroes distort a person's view of the world?**
 - a) **Possibly—fantasy heroes do not exist.**
 - b) **There are very few real heroes....hard working, logical, consistent workers to make their own breaks.**
8. **What are some characteristics of a sense of reality?**
 - a) **Positive:**
 - 1) **Accepting the necessity to face reality.**

- 2) **Having the ability to deal constructively with reality.**
 - 3) **Living at peace with what we cannot change.**
- b) Negative:**
- 1) **To commit oneself to the world of fantasy....become a pathological liar!**
 - 2) **To behave as if one was all powerful.**
 - 3) **To refuse to learn from the lessons of logic and appearance.**
 - 4) **To be resistant to seeing one's self as one really is.**
 - 5) **To be BIG enough to say, "I was wrong."**

*Lesson Three***“MATURITY: A QUALITY OF FLEXIBILITY”*****I. BILICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:***

- A. Thesaurus—PLIABLE—Soft, bend, yield
 ___ NEGATIVE—Hard, rigid, stubborn, unbending, unyielding.
- B. Dictionary—“Capable of being bent, easily bent, compliant, tractable,
 Susceptible of modification or adaptation.
- C. Bible Versions—Eph. 4:18; Mark 3:5
- D. Word Study—YIELD (to give up). Matt. 27:50
 STIFFNECKED. Acts 7:51
 HARD (Difficulty, opposition, hardness, dulled
 spiritual perceptions). Mk. 10:24; 3:5
 HARDNESS OF HEART. Eph. 4:18
- E. Inter-linear—
- F. Lexicon—

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

- A. Concordance—
- B. Ways used in Bible—Negatively—Hard-hearted, closed-minded, Stiff-neck,
 obstinate, self-willed, Bigot, die-hards.
- C. Bible Examples—Heb. 3:7-10, 13, 15; Acts 7:51
 Paul—“Become all things...” (1 Cor. 9:19-22)
 Paul—“Learned to be content...” (Phil. 4:11)

III. APPLICATION:

- A. Commentaries—
- B. Why is this concept important to you?—
 1) Inability to adapt to change when necessary will bring heartaches.
 2) To become a Christian—must be flexible—willing to change—not set in
 concrete.

IV. OBSERVATIONS:**A. *The concept—quality of flexibility:***

- 1) Having the capacity to adapt to change.
- 2) Ability to relate to other people in a consistent manner, with mutual satisfaction and happiness.
- 3) To face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort, and defeat without complaint or collapse.

B. *The concept of change:*

- 1) Change is inevitable.
- 2) Law of change is the core law of the universe.
- 3) “Thus, human beings must be able to sway with stress—for if he stands rigidly, he may be overturned.”
- 4) In Marriage it is important to sway a little and give a little.
- 5) In Football:
 - a) Get plays down to nice science!
 - b) Until get on field facing an opponent.
 - c) Then, may have to do some adapting.

C. *Rigidity:*

- 1) Some advocate—Get a firm goal and rigidly stay with it.
- 2) May be good, but may also need to adapt, change, because of circumstances, etc.
- 3) There is maturity:
 - a) In being able to change your course when you must;
 - b) Even of turning back and look for another road when the one you have chosen is closed.

V. QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY:

1. **Is there ever a time that a person needs to stand firm?**
 - a) **Yes—when it deals with a matter of faith or principle.**
 - b) **Some things are not to be compromised.**
2. **What are some areas in which we need to be flexible?**
 - a) **Opinion & Judgment.**
 - b) **Personal preferences.**
 - c) **Things that will not really matter one way or another.**
 - d) **Where it is a matter of just getting my way.**
3. **Why is the “Quality of Flexibility” an indication of Maturity?**
 - a) **Facing up to life....**
 - b) **Dealing with each issue on its on merits and context....**
 - c) **Making decisions with all the facts...period!**
 - d) **Not a person set in their ways.**
 - e) **Doesn’t make decisions without seeing facts or context of a situation.**
4. **What is necessary before God can mold us (Rom. 8:21), and how does he mold us?**
 - a) **We must be flexible, teachable, able to be molded.**
 - b) **Molds us by His word, experiences of life in view of the word.**

Lesson Four

“REASONABLE FEELING OF INDEPENDENCE”

I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:

- A. **Thesaurus**—Liberty, Freedom, Self-government, Self-determination.
Non-Interference, Paddle one’s own canoe, Shift for self.
RESPONSIBILITY!
INDEPENDENT!
- B. **Dictionary**—“Freedom, release from bondage, freedom from despotic government, the right of doing, thinking, speaking.”
--Independent—
- C. **Bible Versions**—(Freedom, Liberty) Gal. 5:1-4
_(Responsible) Gal. 6:4-5
- D. **Word Study**—Liberty—not under bondage—free to act responsibly.
Freedom—free from hold of sin—to serve God.
Responsible—
- D. **Inter-linear**—
- E. **Lexicon**—

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

- A. **Concordance**—liberty—Gal. 5:13; 1 Pet. 2:16
Responsible—
- B. **Ways Used in Bible**—“Bear own burden” (Gal. 6:3-5)
Not depending upon someone else for existence.
Not depending upon another for support.
“Leave Father & Mother” (Gen. 2:24)

III. APPLICATION:

- A. **Commentaries**—
- B. **Why is this concept important to you?**
- 1) We are dependent upon God.
 - 2) Yet, we have our responsibilities to do, as well.
 - 3) With freedom, goes responsibility.

IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. Why is independence a problem to attain unto?**
 - a) So long dependent in childhood.
 - b) Protection and security in our dependent stage.

- 2. Can we be absolutely independent from all others?**
 - a) No.
 - b) “Reasonable feeling of independence.”
 - c) “No man is an island unto himself.”

- 3. Why is this attribute of reasonable independence considered desirable?**
 - a) To be independent and yet maturely depend upon others is an art.
 - b) Recognition of proper relationship of the new home.

- 4. Do children ever break away entirely from their parents?**
 - a) No.

- 5. What do we think of one who thinks of himself as too independent?**
 - a)

- 6. Is there any such thing as a self-made man?**

- 7. Can a woman be too independent? Give a reason for your answer?**

- 8. What are some sayings that show an independent spirit?**
 - a) “I can do it all by myself.”
 - b) “Stand on your own 2 feet”
 - c) “I don’t need anyone”
 - d) “Paddle one’s own canoe”
 - e) “Shift for yourself”

- 9. How would you make application of this principle?**
 - a) In the church—Don’t have to be checked on all the time.
 - b) In the family—Leave father & mother.
 - c) At work—Able to handle work well without constant supervision.

*Lesson Five***“WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY”****I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:**

- A. **Thesaurus (Synonyms)**—Accountable, Stewardship, Duty, Moral Obligation, Conscientiousness, to answer for.
- B. **English Dictionary**—“Moral, legal, or mental accountability”
“Reliability, Trustworthy”
(Negative)—Careless, Irresponsible, Lazy, Incompetent, Transgress, Failure, Evasion.
- C. **Bible Versions**—
- D. **Word Study**—*OPHEILO*—Duty, To owe, Be indebted, Ought to
--Luke 17:10; Rom. 15:27
- E. **Inter-linear**—Acts 5:29 (*DEI*)
- F. **Lexicon**—*OPHEILO*—Debtor, bound, under obligation, bound by duty, Necessity, ought, Necessity imposed either by law and duty, or by reason, or by the times, or by the nature of the matter under consideration.

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

- A. **Concordance**—Look up *Duty, Ought, Faithful*
- B. **Ways used in Bible**—Give an accounting in Judgment.
- C. **Bible Examples**—Parable of Talents (*Matt. 25:14-30*)

III. APPLICATION:

- A. **Commentaries**—
- B. **Why is this concept important to you?**—

IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why do we hesitate to accept blame for wrong actions?
 - a) Adam & Eve
 - b) Others about us

- c) **Ourselves**
 - d) **It lowers the esteem of others**
 - e) **It lowers our own self-esteem**
 - f) **Look and see where it is not fulfilling a need.**
2. **What are some phrases that indicate such?**
- a) ***"I didn't do it."***
 - b) ***"Don't blame me."***
 - c) ***"I don't know anything about it."***
 - d) ***"I didn't mean it."***
 - e) ***"My brother made me do it."***
 - f) ***"It's not my job."***
3. **Is not accepting blame normal for children?**
- a) **Probably—until taught differently.**
 - b) **Children would naturally not accept responsibility for their actions.**
4. **Is not accepting blame normal for adulthood?**
- a) **Such may be normal in the sense of wanting their needs met.**
 - b) **But not normal from the standpoint of maturity.**
5. **What else is involved in accepting responsibility?**
- a) **Willingness to accept difficult assignments and jobs.**
 - b) **To accept responsibility of a command of God.**
 - c) **"Failure to perform in bright lights is not a very pleasant experience."**

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

1. **Other terms—Reliability, Industry, Integrity, Bravery, Honest Knowledge.**
2. **Immaturity—"To dodge the acceptance of blame.**
3. **Maturity--"Keeping one's word, coming through in a crisis."**
4. **Immaturity—Masters of Alibis, confused and disorganized.**
5. **Immaturity—A maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions which never materialize.**

*Lesson Six***“ENTHUSIASTIC CONFIDENCE IN ONE’S SELF”****I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:**

A. **Thesaurus**—Belief, assurance, conviction, certainty, doubt not, absence of fear, courage, bravery, self-reliance, bold, affirmation, assertion, positiveness.

B. **English Dictionary**—“Feeling of consciousness of one’s powers”
“A state of being certain”
“A reliance on one’s ability to succeed.”

C. **Bible Versions**—

D. **Word Study**—Persuasion, assurance, trust—2 Cor. 1:15; 3:4; 8:22; 10:2;
Eph. 3:12; Phil. 3:4
-Confidence to stand or undertake anything—2 Cor. 9:4;
11:17; Heb. 3:14
-Boldness—Acts 28:31

E. **Inter-linear**—

F. **Lexicon**—

II. BIBLE PASSAGE THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

A. **Concordance**—Confidence in others. 2 Cor. 2:3
---Confidence in self. 2 Cor. 5:8

B. **Ways Used in Bible**—Conviction, Courage, trust, assurance.

C. **Bible Examples**—Paul—Phil. 4:13
---Opposite—Fearful. Rev. 21:8

III. APPLICATION:

A. **Commentaries**—

B. **Why is this concept important to you?**

IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**1. What are two wrong views of self?**

- a) Too high a view of self (Rom. 12:3).
- b) Too low a view of self (Matt. 25—One talent man).
- c) Correct view: Phil. 2:3 (Good, wholesome self-image).

2. What are some sayings you have heard that indicates the desirability of this quality?

- a) *“Self-confidence is the first requisite to complete an undertaking.”* (Samuel Johnson).
- b) *“Self-trust is the first secret of success.”* (Emerson)
- c) *“Self-trust is the essence of heroism.”* (Emerson)
- d) *“The confidence that we have in ourselves engenders the greatest part of what we have in others.”* (La Rochefoucauld)
- e) *“There is a time in every man’s education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better or for worse as his portion; that though the wide Universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through the toil bestowed on that plot of ground that is given to him to till. The power that resides in him is new in nature and none but him knows what this is which he can do. Nor does he know until he has tried.”*

3. What relationship is there between self-confidence and ability?

- a) *“Confidence is the touchstone of ability—a quality that makes every skill and every effort worth more.”*
- b) *“Men can have complete confidence in the rising and setting of the sun, but not when it comes to human affairs.”*

4. What role does common sense play in this matter of self-confidence?

- a) *“Confidence is essential, but must be qualified by common-sense caution.”*

5. What always qualifies mature confidence?

- a) *“Mature confidence is always qualified by mature caution.”*

6. How is immaturity shown here?

- a) *“Anything I say or do is wrong, so I’ll stop trying.”*
- b) *“I guess I just don’t have what it takes.”*
- c) *“I never get a break. Everything goes against me.”*

7. How would you make a difference between self-confidence and conceit?

- a) *“Confidence is that quality that does not accept the concept of an overall character inadequacy, and does not parade inferiority almost as a virtue, and does not expect defeat. Quiet confidence in one’s proved talents or achievements.”*
- b) *“Confidence is not conceit. A conceited person is not realistic.”*
- c) *“He bore failure without self-pity and success without self-admiration. Provided he knew that he had paid his uttermost farthing, it would not matter to him how others judged the results.”*

8. Of what value is a consciousness of one's strength, as well as his weaknesses?
 - a) What he knows, he knows well.
 - b) Where he is particularly capable—he knows it.
 - c) He does not envy another person in the same field who may be even more capable than he.
 - d) He sees that a weakness in one direction need not take away from a strength in another direction.

*Lesson Seven***“MATURITY SHOWN BY SELF-DISCIPLINE”****I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:**

- A. **Thesaurus**—Denial, fasting, temperance, Restraint, Resolution, Determination, backbone, mastery over self, persistence, keeping on, maintain one’s course, self-restraint.
- B. **Dictionary**—“*Correcting or regulation of one’s self for the sake of improvement.*”
---“*Restraint exercised over one’s own impulses, emotions, or desires.*”
- C. **Bible Versions**—1 Cor. 7:9; Jas. 1:26; 1 Cor. 9:25, 27; 2 Tim. 1:7
- D. **Word Study:**
a) Temperate—(a form of self-control)—Acts 24:25; Gal. 5:23; 2 Pet. 1:6; 1 Cor. 9:25
b) Continence—have power over one’s self. 1 Cor. 7:9
c) Discipline—Sound mind. 2 Tim. 1:7
- E. **Inter-linear**—
- F. **Lexicon**—

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

- A. **Concordance**—
- B. **Ways used in Bible:**
a) Incontinent—lack of self-control—excess of, powerless, impotent.
b) Bridle—Jas. 1:26—to hold in check—to restrain.
- B. **Bible Examples:**
a) Paul—1 Cor. 9:27—buffet—to beat with fist.
b) Matt. 5:29-30

III. APPLICATION:

- A. **Commentaries:**
- B. **Why is this concept Important to you?**
a) To bring one’s self into the control of God.

IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1. What is the purpose of all training and disciplining of children?**
 - a) To lead to self-discipline.
 - b) That they can make proper choices in life.
 - c) That they can keep their lives going in right direction.

- 2. If we do not control ourselves, who will control us or discipline us?**
 - a) Man's law will punish, chastise, discipline us.
 - b) God will also discipline us. (Heb. 12)
 - c) Self-control is in contrast to "Others-control."

- 3. To what extent must we go to exercise "self-discipline?"**
 - a) 1 Cor. 9:27—To beat with the fist.
 - b) To beat the face black and blue.
 - c) Jesus...cut off the thing that offends. (Matt. 5:29)

- 4. In what areas are we to exercise self-discipline?**
 - a) Our temper.
 - b) Our passions
 - c) Our desires
 - d) Our emotions
 - e) Our tongue
 - f) Our actions.

- 5. Can a man say he is mature if he is in bondage to material things?**
 - a) Greediness, self-indulgence often gets us into trouble.
 - b) If things possess us—we certainly are not in control.
 - c) To accord undue importance to pleasure—undisciplined in action.
 - d) To live only for the immediate present.

- 6. How would you define self-discipline?**
 - a) "Ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction."
 - b) "All one's faculties has been brought under proper direction and control."
 - c) "*Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*" (2 Cor. 10:5)

- 7. How can one attain to mature self-control?**
 - a) Do not enslave a thing or person to yourself. (possessive imprisonment)
 - b) Accept joys or sorrows as that which is passing.
 - c) Do not over emphasize your needs or desires.

- 8. What happens when a man does not get that he wants and is not under control?**
 - a) Goes into rage, wild threats, or even blows.
 - b) Women shed tears or will threaten.
 - c) They may resort to some kind of reprisal.
 - d) Reason flies out the window.

*Lesson Eight***“DECISIVENESS OF PURPOSE”****I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:**

- A. **Thesaurus**—Intention, determination, resolve, assurance, certainty
- B. **Dictionary**—“Decisiveness—Power of deciding, resolute, conclusion, firmness.”
---“Purpose—Intention, Resolution, Determination, end to be attained, and ambition.”
- C. **Bible Versions**—
- D. **Word Study:**
- 1) A deliberate intention—Acts 27:43
 - 2) Purposes of God—Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:9
 - 3) To determine with oneself—2 Cor. 1:17
 - 4) To purpose in heart—2 Cor. 9:7
- D. **Inter-linear**—
- E. **Lexicon**—

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

- A. **Concordance**—Acts 11:23—Wrong and right purpose.
- B. **Ways Used in Bible**—Real devotion to a cause
- C. **Bible Examples:**
- 1) Paul—Acts 26:9-10; Rom. 12:7
 - 2) Barnabas—Acts 11:23

III. APPLICATION:

- A. **Commentaries:**
- 1) Wuest—
 - 2) McGarvey on Acts—
- B. **Why is this Concept Important to you?**
- 1) To make a definite decision as to the course of one’s life.
 - 2) To pour oneself into constructive activity.
 - 3) To direct one’s energies into constructive areas.
 - 4) Ability to sweat out a project or a situation in spite of opposition or discouraging set backs.

- 5) Make a decision and stand by it.
- 6) To find new ways when old ways close up.

IV. QUESTIONS TO HELP CLARIFY:

- 1. How early should one set goals for his life?**
- 2. Why is purpose so effective in giving more meaning & happiness in life?**
- 3. How does purpose focus our wills?**
- 4. How would you differentiate between a man of purpose and one who merely exists?**
- 5. How does Christianity give us high purpose?**
- 6. What is a negative approach to this subject?**
 - a) To explore many possibilities and do nothing!

Lesson Nine

“MATURITY: AN ABUNDANCE OF LOVE”

I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:

A. Thesaurus:

- 1) Desire: longing, yearning, aspiration, appetite, passion.
- 2) Courtesy: Respect, good manners, politeness, remembrances, recognition.
- 3) Affection: Fondness, liking, admiration, brotherly love, adoration.

B. Dictionary—“Feeling of warm personal attachment, deep affection—such as a friend, parent or child—warm fondness, liking, God’s benevolent love.”

C. Bible Versions:

D. Word Study:

- 1) Eros—sexual, physical attraction.
- 2) Storge—Family connection (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3; Rom. 12:10)
- 3) Philia—Love, affection, closeness, friendship, companionship, etc. (Tit. 2:4; Matt. 10:37; Jn. 12:25; Jn. 11:3, 36)
- 4) Agape—Jn. 3:16; Jn. 13:34; 1 Jn. 5:2)
- 5) Philadelphia—Love of Brethren (Rom. 12:10)
- 6) Philoteknos—Love of children (Tit. 2:4)
- 7) Philandros—Love of Husband (Tit. 2:4)
- 8) Philanthropia—Love of Mankind (Tit. 3:4)

E. Inter-linear: (This helps to see which word is used)

F. Lexicon

(I.S.B.E.—P. 1931-32)

"An earnest and anxious desire for, and an active and beneficent interest in, the well-being of the one loved."

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

A. Concordance—love, kiss, affection, charity, friendship.

B. Ways Used in Bible

C. Bible Examples—Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 3:16

III. APPLICATION:

A. Comentaries:

B. Why is this Concept Important to you?

- 1) Love is the greatest. (1 Cor. 13)
- 2) Must love brother or can't love God. (1 Jn. 4:20)

IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why does Agape show maturity?

- a) One who has the capacity to find more satisfaction in giving than receiving. (Acts 20:35)
- b) Unselfishness—responding to needs of others at the expense of one's own desires & wishes.

2. Can a person truly love others, if he does not truly love himself?

- a) ***“Love thy neighbor as thyself.”***
- b) Teacher telling her class of “weight-watchers”:
 - ***Love yourself more than you love food.***
 - This gives strength to decision—self-control.
- c) Must not be overly sold on self, nor demeaning of self.
- d) Self-acceptance—love yourself for what you are.

3. Why does the Bible say that love is the fulfilling of the Law?

- a) It is the motivation behind doing all that the Law teaches us to do.
- b) Without love, it is outward, grievous. (1 Cor. 13:1-3; 1 Jn. 5:3)

4. What are the different kinds of love from the Greek Language?

- a) Agape—Good will, unselfishness, kindness, charity, tenderness, courtesy, respect.
- b) Phileo—Fondness, liking, admiration, adoration, etc.
- c) Eros—desire, longing, yearning, appetite, passion.
- d) Storge—family affection, natural affection.

*Lesson Ten***“COURAGE TO BE PATIENT”****I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:****A. Thesaurus:**

- 1) Perseverance—Continuance, permanence, persistence, firmness, steadiness.
- 2) Endurance—Even tempered, tranquil mind, calmness, peace of mind, resignation, long-suffering, forbearance,

B. Dictionary—“*Calm, uncomplaining endurance*”

- “Calmness in waiting”
- “Willingness to wait.”

C. Bible Versions:**D. Word Study:**

- 1) Hypomone—To abide under.
---Passive—Endurance, (Lk. 21:19)
- 2) Makrothumia—Long-suffering. (Jas. 5:10)
- 3) I.S.B.E—“To wait on God.”

E. Inter-linear—**F. Lexicon—****II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:****A. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:**

- 1) Endure under trials. (Lk. 21:19)
- 2) Endure Chastisement from God. (Heb. 12:7)
- 3) Endure undeserved afflictions. (1 Pet. 2:10)
- 4) Endure in well-doing. (Rom. 1:7)
- 5) Endure in fruit-bearing. (Lk. 8:15)
- 6) Endure running the race. (Heb. 12:1)

B. Ways Used in the Bible:

- 1) Long-suffering, To bear up under, Endure, Long Tempered.

C. Bible Examples—Job & Moses. (Heb. 11:24-27)**III. APPLICATION:****A. Commentaries:**

B. Why is this Concept Important to you?

IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What is the difference between patience and long-suffering?

- a) Patience—to hold back—to wait.
 - *“That quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy, and is used of God.”* (Rom. 2:4; 1 Pet. 3:20)
- b) Long suffering—to endure trials.
 - *“That quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope.”* (1 Thess. 1:3)
 - Is it used of God??

2. Why do we understand when a child is not patient?

- a) The child is not mature—expect impatience—need to teach!

3. How is patience shown?

- a) To wait, Think things through, Allow time to do things right.

4. What connection does divorce & patience have?

- a) Many divorces would have been prevented if:
 - Allowed time to work out adjustments.
 - Give time to accomplish harder task.
- b) Want it right now—can't wait.

5. In what way could patience save a person's life?

- a) Take time to do something correctly.
- b) Not running off “half-cocked.”

Lesson Eleven

“THE LIGHT OF HOPE”

I. BIBLICAL THOUGHT FOUND & DEFINED:

A. **Thesaurus:** Desire, Expectation, Confidence, Assurance.
Opposite of: Despair or hopelessness.

B. **Dictionary:** “Desire accompanied by expectation.”

C. **Bible Versions:**

D. **Word Study:**

- 1) Favorable and confident expectation.
- 2) Anticipation of something desirable.
- 3) Grounds upon which hope is based.
- 4) Object upon which the hope is fixed.

E. **Inter-Linear:**

F. **Lexicon:**

II. BIBLE PASSAGES THAT RELATE TO THE THOUGHT:

A. **Concordance:**

B. **Ways Used in Bible:**

- 1) Shown by endurance under trial. (1 Thess 1:3)
- 2) Anchor to the soul. (Heb. 6:18-19)
- 3) Purifying power. (1 Jn. 3:3)

B. **Bible Examples:**

- 1) Heb. 11:10
- 2) Heb. 11:35

III. APPLICATION:

A. **Commentaries:**

B. ***Why is this Concept Important to you?***

- 1) Hope is something we look for, but do not presently have.
- 2) Heb. 11:1

IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How does Hope relate to Maturity?

- a) Without hope—there is pessimism, despondency, despair.
- b) Lose the incentive to move on to higher ground.
- c) The mature person realizes the need for HOPE to build his life around.

2. What is the connection between hope and patience? (Rom. 8:24-25)

- a) What we hope for is something we do not possess at present.
- b) Therefore, it becomes necessary to wait for the obtaining of it.
- c) Often, after a great deal of heartache, labor, and suffering.

3. In what sense does HOPE save us? (Rom. 8:24)

- a) If we have our hope set on the proper thing—it gives us motivation to be faithful.
- b) We will remain faithful in our pursuit of it.
- c) With the expectation of receiving it at the end of our journey.

4. In what sense does HOPE reflect the character of the person?

- a) What he sets his sights on to attain unto—is his hope.
- b) Sometimes, these sights are very low, sensual, and earthly.
- c) Col. 3:1-2

5. What is the Christian's HOPE?

- a) Phil. 3:8-11
- b) 1 Pet. 1:3-4
- c) 1 John 3:1-3

Lesson Twelve

“EVALUATING MY MATURITY LEVEL”

INTRODUCTION

1. Reasons God has placed Evangelists, Elders, & teachers in the church (Eph. 4:12-16):
 - a) ***“Equipping the saints for the work of ministry”***
 - b) ***“For the edifying of the body of Christ”***
 - c) ***“Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God”***
 - d) ***“(come to) a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”***
 - e) ***“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine”***
 - f) ***“(may) speaking the true in love”***
 - g) ***“(may) grow up in all things into Him who is the head”***
 - h) ***“(that) every part (of the body) does its share (to) cause growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”***
2. We have looked at 10 characteristics of Maturity:
 - a) A sense of Reality
 - b) The quality of Flexibility
 - c) The reasonable feeling of independence.
 - d) Willingness to accept Responsibility.
 - e) Enthusiastic Confidence in one’s self.
 - f) Self Discipline.
 - g) A decisiveness of purpose.
 - h) An abundance of love.
 - i) Patience and the courage to be patient.
 - j) The light of Hope
3. We have related them to Scripture teaching.
4. We have now come to the point of trying to evaluate our maturity level by testing it.
 - a) You have heard of I. Q. test. (Intelligence Quotient)
 - b) This is a M. Q. test. (Maturity Quotient)

DISCUSSION

I. SPECIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEST:

A. Scoring by Sections:

1) Section A—1/2 point for each NO answer (total possible points)	10
2) Section B—1 point for each NO answer (total possible points)	20
3) Section C—2 points for each NO answer (total possible points)	40
4) Section D—1 point for each NO answer (total possible points)	20
5) Section E—1/2 point for each NO answer (total possible points)	<u>10</u>

B. Special Information to place at top of each section:

A—Contains immaturities that most can live with, and not suffer serious consequences.

B—Not too serious, but do make life a little difficult.

C—Highest points because they deal with personal traits that stand in the way of one's personal welfare, success, peace of mind, and happiness.

D—Fairly serious, but can probably be overcome.

E—Contains immaturities that are part of your natural life-style. They are harder to overcome.

C. Evaluating your score.

- 1) Add total of each section to get grand total.
- 2) Rating:
 - a) If you got 75 or better—Super.
 - b) If you got 65 up to 74—Excellent.
 - c) If you got 55 up to 64—Good.
 - d) If you got 45 up to 54—Fair.
 - e) If you got 35 up to 44—Poor.
 - f) If you got 25 up to 34—Bad.
- 3) Evaluating your score:
 - a) Only after age 60 are you likely to rate SUPER.
 - b) If you scored 75 earlier than 60, you are SUPER-SUPER.
 - c) A score of 65 is possible as early as age 14, but generally unlikely.
 - d) A score of 55 is a good grade even for ages 14-21.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

1. Remember that Maturity is “a state of becoming!”
2. We hope this study:
 - a) Has given some insight to the concept of Maturity;
 - b) Has deepened and broadened your understanding of Maturity;
 - c) Has challenged you to want to be more Mature.
3. Maturity will require:
 - a) Dealing with our immature ways;
 - b) A strong desire to become mature;
 - c) Lean on God's Word and the example of Christ heavily.

SPECIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEST:

D. Scoring by Sections:

1) Section A—1/2 point for each NO answer (total possible points)	10
2) Section B—1 point for each NO answer (total possible points)	20
3) Section C—2 points for each NO answer (total possible points)	40
4) Section D—1 point for each NO answer (total possible points)	20
5) Section E—1/2 point for each NO answer (total possible points)	<u>10</u>
	100

E. Special Information to place at top of each section:

A—Contains immaturities that most can live with, and not suffer serious consequences.

B—Not too serious, but do make life a little difficult.

C—Highest points because they deal with personal traits that stand in the way of one's personal welfare, success, peace of mind, and happiness.

D—Fairly serious, but can probably be overcome.

E—Contains immaturities that are part of your natural life-style. They are harder to overcome.

F. Evaluating your score.

4) Add total of each section to get grand total.

5) Rating:

g) If you got 75 or better—Super.

h) If you got 65 up to 74—Excellent.

i) If you got 55 up to 64—Good.

j) If you got 45 up to 54—Fair.

k) If you got 35 up to 44—Poor.

l) If you got 25 up to 34—Bad.

6) Evaluating your score:

e) Only after age 60 are you likely to rate SUPER.

f) If you scored 75 earlier than 60, you are SUPER-SUPER.

g) A score of 65 is possible as early as age 14, but generally unlikely.

h) A score of 55 is a good grade even for ages 14-21.

“TESTING OUR MATURITY LEVEL”

CATEGORY A

YES NO

- _____ 1. Do you often say: *“I just can’t stop smoking?”*
- _____ 2. Do you often say: *“I just can’t cut down on eating?”*
- _____ 3. Do you often say: *“I can’t stop drinking hard liquor?”*
- _____ 4. Do you frequently give the excuse: *“Sorry, I’m too busy?”*
- _____ 5. Do you find yourself frequently apologizing: *“Sorry, I’m late?”*
- _____ 6. Do you often apologetically say: *“I have such a poor memory?”*
- _____ 7. Do you often say: *“Sorry, I’m so stupid, but I don’t understand?”*
- _____ 8. Do you constantly excuse yourself with: *“Sorry, I’m such a poor correspondent?”*
- _____ 9. Do you often say: *“Sorry, I’m just not sociable?”*
- _____ 10. Do you excuse yourself with: *“If only I had more time?”*
- _____ 11. Do you assert positively: *“I’ll never do it?”*
- _____ 12. Do you dodge with: *“I don’t know?”*
- _____ 13. Do you hedge with: *“I guess so?”*
- _____ 14. Do you insist: *“I believe in fate?”*
- _____ 15. Do you sigh: *“I can’t make any friends?”*
- _____ 16. Do you usually wait for someone else to introduce himself first?
- _____ 17. Do you self-righteously proclaim: *“I can’t be a hypocrite?”*
- _____ 18. Do you confidently proclaim: *“I’m not interested in money?”*
- _____ 19. Do you get out of helping causes by saying: *“I just can’t ask people for money?”*
- _____ 20. Do you feel that you can always do things better than anyone else?

CATEGORY B

YES NO

- _____ 1. Do you often excuse yourself with: *“I intended to do it?”*
- _____ 2. Do you frequently dodge with: *“I’ll try to do it?”*
- _____ 3. Are you a compulsive talker?
- _____ 4. Are you a poor listener?
- _____ 5. Are you a chronic complainer?
- _____ 6. Do you frequently apologize with: *“I’m just too tired?”*
- _____ 7. Do you excuse yourself with: *“I’m just not good with my hands?”*
- _____ 8. Do you shy away with: *“I just can’t speak in public?”*
- _____ 9. Do you excuse yourself with: *“I just can’t help it?”*
- _____ 10. Do you frequently dodge with: *“I know I just can’t do it?”*
- _____ 11. Do you regretfully exclaim: *“If only I could get started?”*
- _____ 12. Do you often say: *“I’m sorry, I just can’t handle money?”*
- _____ 13. Are you usually impatient?

YES NO

14. Do you judge others on the basis of rumors?
 15. Do you positively assert: *"I can't forgive?"*
 16. Must you be constantly entertained?
 17. Do you stubbornly say: *"I've always been this way and I can't change?"*
 18. Must you usually be the center of attraction?
 19. Do you dodge decisions with: *"Well, I'm not sure?"*
 20. Are you resentful when someone doesn't remember you?

CATEGORY C**YES NO**

1. Do you frequently stop a discussion with: *"I know what I'm talking about?"*
 2. Do you consistently try to tell other people what to do?
 3. Do you think that material gifts can create strong friendships?
 4. If you don't like a person, do you refuse to deal with him?
 5. Is it hard for you to admit you are wrong?
 6. Is it difficult for you to apologize?
 7. Do you get upset easily by discourtesies?
 8. Do you get angry quickly?
 9. Do you frequently say: *"People are not friendly?"*
 10. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only I had listened to my father & mother?"*
 11. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only I had had a good education?"*
 12. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only I had gone into a different business or profession?"*
 13. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only I had married someone else?"*
 14. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only I had remained single?"*
 15. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only I had been born beautiful or handsome?"*
 16. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only my parents had been wealthy?"*
 17. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only I had not had such a bad environment when I was young?"*
 18. Do you excuse yourself with: *"My trouble is, I was an only child?"*
 19. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only my home had been full of love?"*
 20. Must you always have the last word?

CATEGORY D**YES NO**

1. Do you expect people always to be nice to you?
 2. Do you expect never to be rebuffed or rejected?
 3. Do you stoutly assert: *"I don't need anyone's help?"*
 4. Do you frequently say: *"It was my idea,"* or *"If it hadn't been for me?"*
 5. Do you find it hard to take criticism?
 6. Do you frequently get into arguments?

YES NO

7. Are you easily hurt?
 8. Do you expect everyone to love you?
 9. Is it hard for you to admit failure?
 10. Is it difficult for you to take advice gracefully?
 11. Are you unable to keep friends for a long time?
 12. Do you always expect gratitude?
 13. Do you inordinately crave publicity?
 14. Do you snub people regularly?
 15. Do you habitually say: *"I am certain it is so?"*
 16. Do you generally blame others instead of yourself?
 17. Do you excuse yourself with: *"If only I had had this opportunity?"*
 18. Do you complain: *"I lost my job because they didn't like me?"*
 19. Do you explain: *"They don't like me because they are jealous of me?"*
 20. Are you in the habit of saying: *"I know I can't do it?"*

CATEGORY E**YES NO**

1. Must you always be top dog?
 2. Must you always sin?
 3. Must you have everything you want?
 4. Do you expect life always to be simple and smooth?
 5. Do you worry because you worry?
 6. Are you unable to close doors on things that are gone forever?
 7. Is it difficult for you to admit you've made a mistake?
 8. Have you a drive for perfection?
 9. Must you always be happy?
 10. Do you generally cry over spilt milk?
 11. Must you always be right?
 12. Do you constantly insist on having your rights?
 13. Must you always have your way?
 14. Does someone else's success trouble you?
 15. Do you act out of envy or jealousy?
 16. Do you hesitate to sacrifice for a meaningful objective?
 17. Does sorrow continually nest in your hair?
 18. Do you feed on grudges and hatreds?
 19. Do you brood over disappointments and defeats?
 20. Is it difficult for you to trust anyone?

Lesson Thirteen**“MATURITY IN MARRIAGE”****INTRODUCTION**

1. Marriage involves at first:
 - a) Two separate individuals to begin living together who are different.
 - b) They have dated, know something about each other, but find a few surprises after the ceremony.
2. How can two such individuals:
 - a) Learn to mesh their lives together....
 - b) So they can live a lifetime together and be happy?
3. We believe the answer is—Mature—Grow up!
4. Reason for suggesting this:
 - a) The Mature Christian is a much easier person to deal with.
 - b) If both mates are mature—greater chances of success.
 - c) Surveys show that a larger % of divorces occur within the first 5 years of marriage.
 - d) And when both are in their teens at marriage—chances are 2 to 1 that it will end in divorce.
 - e) Marriage is for the mature.

MATURITY INDICATORS

1. Sense of Reality
2. Quality of Flexibility
3. Reasonable feeling of Independence
4. Willingness to Accept Responsibility
5. Enthusiastic Confidence in One's Self
6. Self-Discipline
7. Decisiveness of Purpose
8. An Abundance of Love
9. Patience
10. Hope

DISCUSSION

- 2, 4, 9---1. Maturity will cause both to work at Marriage.
- a) Indifference and neglect helps to kill a marriage.
 - b) Drifting apart, separate interests and associations can also.
 - c) The contract of marriage is only valid, if kept!
- 4, 6 ---2. Maturity will cause each to work on self FIRST.
- a) “World changed to suit us?”
 - b) “Many are more interested in their mate changing than in changing themselves.”

- 8, 7 ---3. Maturity will influence spouse by building he/she up.
- Need to let the husband know he is a success in your eyes.
 - Need to let the wife know that her work around the home is appreciated.
 - Look for the good and praise.
 - Let them know they count in your life.
- 2 ___---4. Maturity will help to communicate with my spouse.
- Large numbers of divorces are due to lack of communications.
 - Mis-understandings, mis-information, mis-interpretations.
 - Lack of expressing one's mind or heart well.
 - The silent treatment that last for hours, days, weeks.
- 8 ___---5. Maturity will cause me to tell my mate that I love him/her.
- Expressing it seems to be as important as the acts that show it.
- 2 ___---6. Maturity will cause me to promote 'TOGETHERNESS' with my spouse.
- "Togetherness" is an important concept.
 - Better to sleep in same room and in same bed.
 - Closer physically—so with mind and heart.
 - Try to have friends & activities in common.
 - Even with children—to keep both important in their lives.
 - Keeps down jealousy and favoritism.
- 4, 6, 7---7. Maturity will cause me to always and forever be faithful to my spouse.
- Sin against God, Mate, children, society, others involved, and self.
 - No room for flirtation or even hints at unfaithfulness.
- 8, 9, 10—8. Maturity will cause me to try hard to forgive my spouse.
- Can't erase problem.
 - But must be faced squarely....see it for what it is....my part.
 - Love....mature love....can rebuild.
 - Forgiveness opens the door for mending.
- 6 ___---9. Maturity will cause me to control my language towards my spouse.
- "Vicious language" cuts deep.
 - Words can be sharp....hurt deeply.
 - Words, constantly coming, can destroy marriage.
 - Words stated in public about someone may do far more harm to marriage.
- 1 ___---10. Maturity will cause me to treat my spouse as an equal.
- Look upon each other as counterparts....needing each other.

*Lesson Fourteen***“MATURE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARENTS
AND CHILDREN”****INTRODUCTION**

1. Several things affect parent-child relationship:
 - a) Parents giving of themselves;
 - b) Parents actually wanting the child;
 - c) Parents acceptance of their child as he is;
 - d) Well-adjusted parents to each other;
 - e) In other words—mature parents.
2. These factors become more obvious in extreme cases, but should be observable in all cases when closely viewed in light of MATURITY INDICATORS!
3. See 10 suggested concepts to show a mature parental outlook.

DISCUSSION

1, 4 ---1. Maturity helps you to know child as he really is—and to accept him for what he is.

- a) Doesn't take much maturity to accept a healthy, bright child.
- b) But it does when one is crippled, spastic, abnormal in some way.
- c) Even a genius child can be treated in such a way to make him a brat!
- d) Stop trying to make child what he is not.

7, 8 ---2. Maturity helps you to act upon what you know about your child.

- a) The shame upon parents is not having a retarded child, but it is in not doing something about it.
- b) The sooner something is done about the child the quicker he can be helped.

8, 4 ---3. Maturity helps you to love and care for your child.

- a) Love must be shown...demonstrated...picked up by the child.
- b) Parents must give of themselves more than things.
- c) Parents should share the caring for their children.

1, 4 ---4. Maturity helps you to be honest with your child.

- a) Fairy tales should be told as fairy tales.
- b) Santa Claus should be told truthfully...or not at all.
- c) Give room for children to question our credibility.
- d) Tell child truth about himself...not in a degrading way, but an acceptable way.

- e) Do not ask them to do what you will not do.

7, 2, 1---5. Maturity helps you to guide your child.

- a) Help to guide, not dictate child's life.
- b) Help him to learn to make own decisions.
- c) Don't force your way on him against his desire.

5, 7, 9---6. Maturity helps you to not be afraid of your child.

- a) Discipline must be practiced in certain areas for the good of the child.
- b) The parents must be in control of the situation, not the children.
- c) Permissiveness is a crime and a shame to parents.
- d) Sometimes a spanking is the only language a child can understand.
- e) Children need and appreciate discipline if it is:
 - The kind that makes sense;
 - Reasonable and justly enforced.
- f) Child needs to trust parents....they mean what they say.

9, 1 ---7. Maturity helps you not to be over-demanding of your child.

- a) If you know your child's weaknesses and strengths, you will not require of him more than he can do.
- b) You will help him to become his best self.
- c) More important for child to be happy within himself, rather than you be happy with him.
- d) Some of the dearest children are not the brightest....and some of the brightest are not the best kind of children.

3, 4, 7---8. Maturity helps you not to expect gratitude.

- a) "The child owes the parent nothing!"
- b) Only an immature parent will wield "gratitude" as a ploy for winning the child's obedience.
- c) Should not say that the child should feel gratitude toward his parents for bringing him into the world, taking care of him, perhaps sacrificing much for his sake.
- d) Mature parent will be delighted if gratitude is expressed, but not dismayed if never spoken during the growing up years.
- e) Don't use gratitude as a weapon.

9 ___---9. Maturity helps you not to be over-protective of your child.

- a) Would you do the same things to raise your children a second time, or do differently?

- b) Most are over-protective of children....to save them from hurts, failures, sorrows.
- c) But it is those bruises and hurts that brings about the maturing process.
- d) He learns lessons of life that he must face when his parents are not there to console.
- e) Don't fight your children's battles for them.
- f) Don't protect him from his own failures...consequences.

10 ___---10. Maturity helps you to praise your child.

- a) Children grow up in a world that he is constantly having to learn how to do things correctly....to please others.
- b) It is a constant teaching and disciplining process.
- c) What can help a child to come through all of this without having a warped concept of life?
- d) Love is one of the main answers.
- e) Praise is the other....he blossoms under praise and recognition.
- f) Unfortunately, parents are more pronged to blame than praise.
- g) When he acts like he should....this is taken for granted....but reprimanded for all wrong actions....to much negative.
- h) How do parents respond to a child's failure....may determined his image of his life as a whole.

