



Lecture 3

Developing Maturity for Life

PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF A PERSON WITH IMMATUREITY & LIFE-CONTROLLING PROBLEMS

Only through relationship with Jesus Christ can we find a true sense of security and stability.

Our self-centeredness must become Christ-centeredness.

Luke 9:23,24

“And He was saying to all, Assuming that anyone desires to come after me as a follower of mine, let him disregard his own interests, and let him at once and once for all pick up and carry his cross day after day, and let him take the same road with me that I take as a habit of life. For whoever desires to save his soul-life, shall ruin it. But whoever will declare a sentence of death upon his soul-life for my sake, this one shall save it.”

Ephesians 4:22-25

“that you have put off once for all with reference to your former manner of life the old self who is being corrupted according to the passionate desires of deceit; moreover, that you are being constantly renewed with reference to the spirit of your mind; and that you have put on once for all the new self who after God was created in righteousness and holiness of truth. Wherefore, having put off the lie once for all, be speaking truth each with his neighbour, because we are members belonging to one another.”

Colossians 3:1-10

“In view of the fact, therefore, that you were raised with Christ, the things above be constantly seeking, where Christ is, on the right hand of God, seated. The things above be constantly setting your mind upon, not the things on the earth; for you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. Whenever the Christ is made visible, our life, then also you with Him shall be manifested in glory. By a once-for-all act, and at once, put to death your members which are upon the earth: fornication, impurity, depraved passion, wicked craving, and avarice which is of such a nature as to be idolatry; because of which things there comes the wrath of God; in the sphere of which things also you ordered your behaviour at one time when you were living in them. But now put away once for all, and at once, also all these things: a habitual, revengeful anger, violent fits of anger, malignity, slander, obscene speech out of your mouth. Stop lying to one another, having stripped off and away from yourselves and for your own advantage the old, antiquated, outworn, decrepit (*decayed*), useless man [that person you were before you were saved] with his evil practices, and having clothed yourselves with the new man [the person you are after you are saved] who is constantly being renewed, with a resulting advanced and perfect experiential knowledge which is according to the image of the One who created him.”

Immature people find it hard to persevere through trials and to complete assignments. They want “it” now. It is the “instant society”. Lack of patience is actually immaturity. Little children “want it now”, otherwise they will cry, rebel, throw a tantrum. Adult children have the same disposition and will get angry when things don’t go their way.

Don’t try to change yourself by your own effort

We can’t change ourselves. A change of behaviour won’t last, this is humanism, and doesn’t change the core of our personality when it is done by the flesh.

Patience (long-suffering) is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. If you want to change your bad habits, you will have to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit and God’s Word to change you.

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering (*patience*), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Against such things as these there is no law. And they who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the evil nature with its dispositions and cravings once for all. In view of the fact that we are being sustained in spiritual life by the Spirit, by means of the Spirit let us go on ordering our conduct.

When we are helping immature people to grow up it might require confrontation in love. The Word of God is the key. Jesus Christ wants to become our security.

Jude 1:24

“Now, to the One who is able to guard you from stumbling and to place you before the presence of His glory faultless in great rejoicing.”

1 Peter 1:4-7

“resulting in an inheritance, imperishable and undefiled, and that does not fade away, which inheritance has been laid up and is now kept guarded in safe deposit in heaven for you who are constantly being kept guarded by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in a last season which is epochal and strategic in its significance. In which last season you are to be constantly rejoicing with a joy that expresses itself in a triumphant exuberance, although for a little while at the present time if perchance there is need for it, you have been made sorrowful in the midst of many different kinds of testings in order that the approval of your faith, which faith was examined by testing for the purpose of being approved, that approval being much more precious than the approval of gold which perishes, even though that gold be approved by fire-testing, may be discovered after scrutiny to result in praise and glory and honour at the time of the revelation of Jesus Christ”

We have no rights, only the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

“But as many as appropriated Him, He gave to them a legal right to become born-ones of God, to those who place their trust in His name.”

Jesus did only the will of the Father. Was He free? Yes, totally, because there is no freedom outside of the will of the Father. The same is for us, the more we do the will of the Father the more freedom we experience. When we oppose God’s Word with our actions, words, thoughts, we experience oppression.

John 6:38

“because I have come down from heaven, not in order that I might continually be doing my will, but the will of Him who sent me.”

Consider the patience of Jesus: His mission took 33 ½ years. Jesus, God Himself, who is timeless, came and submitted Himself to life in a human body and entered into time in order to be crucified for our sins.

There is a totally wrong concept that freedom is doing what you want, when you want and how you want. This is self on the throne, the sinful nature ignited. This is wrong for the world, but with this wrong belief, the results are much worse for Christians because we have an enemy who will attack us when we enter into the kingdom of darkness through disobedience.

Jesus is our Lord, He is the King and we are His children, but also His servants. Jesus came to serve and we are also called to serve. Where does serving start for us Christians? Simply obeying the Word, doing the will of the Father to the best of our ability and denying self, not gratifying self, but loving others as Christ did.

John 10:11

“I alone am the shepherd, the good one. The shepherd, the good one, lays down his life on behalf of and instead of the sheep.”

The challenge is: Are we willing to imitate Jesus at any cost?