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1 timothy

Home Group Discussion Guide

4 Marks Of Maturity

1 Timothy — Part 1

ICEBREAKER: If you could play any instrument, what would you choose? Why?

OVERVIEW: God wants you to grow to maturity, but you can't grow to maturity if you don't know what it is or what it looks like. 1 Timothy 1:5 says that **a mature Christ follower lives a life of love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a genuine faith.** In this discussion we will take a deeper look at the 4 marks of spiritual maturity so that we can know the character that God wants us to develop.

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. In 1 Timothy, Paul's first charge to Timothy is to stop false teachers. Paul knew that the path to spiritual growth is the truth of the Bible, and that false teachers would interfere with God's plan to grow people to maturity. For this reason, one of a pastor's primary roles is to guard the church against false teaching. What are some actions the pastor can take to protect the church from false teaching?
3. While the pastor can protect you from false teaching when you are at church, he cannot protect you outside of the church? How can you guard yourself against false teaching?
4. The path to spiritual growth is truth — the Bible. What are you doing to grow in your knowledge and understanding of the Bible? Do you want/need to do anything different? Explain.

5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. The first mark of a mature Christian is to live a life of love. What are some ways that you struggle to live up to the standard of love in 1 Corinthians 13? What changes do you need to make in your life to grow in love?
6. Read 1 Peter 1:14-16. The second mark of a mature Christ-follower is a pure heart — to be without sin. Are you struggling to repent of any particular sins? Explain. Why do you think these sins are giving you such trouble? What can our Home Group do to help you grow in purity?
7. The third mark of spiritual maturity is a clear conscience. What did Paul mean by this? Do you have any personal convictions that God has given to you but not to everyone? Explain.
8. The fourth mark of spiritual growth is genuine faith. In the Bible, the words "faith, belief, and trust" mean the same thing. Satan believes in Jesus, and surely he isn't a mature Christ-follower. What does the Bible mean when it talks about believing in Jesus for salvation? How can you be sure that you have this kind of faith?

The Last Word: A mature Christ-follower lives a life of love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a genuine faith. Keep striving to grow in these areas so that you can become more useful to God and others.