

8 – IMMATURITY & PROGRESS (HEBREWS 5:11-6:3)

I. The Problem of Immaturity (Hebrews 5:11-14)

A. Their Current Condition (Hebrews 5:11)

- The writer states that he has much to say to them concerning the nature of Jesus Christ.
- However, he points out that they will find it hard to understand because they are immature.

B. Their Expected Progression (Hebrews 5:12a)

- The writer points out that they should be able to teach others at this point in their life.

C. The Reality (Hebrews 5:12b-13)

- However, they still need someone to teach them the basics of the Christian faith again.
- Like a child, they are only able to handle very simplistic teaching concerning their faith.

Scripture 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (ESV)

¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

D. The Mature (Hebrews 5:14)

- Using the picture of food, the writer states that solid teaching is for the mature.
- The mature are those who have disciplined themselves to distinguish between good and evil.

II. Moving Toward Maturity (Hebrews 6:1-3)

A. The Writer's Focus (Hebrews 6:1a)

- The writer will not discuss the basic teachings of the Christian faith.
- Rather the writer wants to discuss issues of spiritual maturity.

B. Moving Beyond (Hebrews 6:1b-3)

1. The Basics (Hebrews 6:1b-2)

a. Repentance (Hebrews 6:1b)

- The writer wanted to move beyond the issue of repenting of one's sinful works.

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- b. Faith (Hebrews 6:1c)
 - The writer wanted to move beyond the issue of faith and trust in God.
- c. Baptism (Hebrews 6:2a)
 - He wanted to move beyond the issue of water baptism.
- d. Laying of Hands (Hebrews 6:2b)
 - The laying of hands is the symbolic action of showing the impartation of the Holy Spirit.
 - He wanted to move beyond the issue of the believer receiving the Holy Spirit.
- e. The Resurrection (Hebrews 6:2c)
 - He wanted to move beyond the issue of the future resurrection of the dead.
- f. The Judgment (Hebrews 6:2d)
 - He wanted to move beyond the issue of the impending eternal judgment.
- 2. The Need (Hebrews 6:3)
 - The writer acknowledges that to go beyond these basic doctrines requires God's help.
 - Moving on to spiritual maturity requires God's help.