

# No Mere Humans: A Call for Christian Maturity

February 4, 2024 | 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 | Pastor Michael Foster

- ∅ The tragedy of Christian immaturity (1 Cor 3:1-4)
  - o It is contrary to God's design for us ("mere infants")
  - o It lies about what Christ has done for us ("mere humans")
  - o It gives into the flesh, which is destructive ("still fleshly")
  - o It camouflages Christ to a world that needs to see Him ("still worldly")
  - o It limits what God reveals to us ("not yet ready")
  
- ∅ The trail to Christian maturity
  - o Embrace your identity in Christ (Positional Sanctification)
  
  - o Cooperate with Christ's work in you (Progressive Sanctification)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - o Rest in God's promise of glory (Perfect Sanctification)

Repent & Renew

Repent of your sin (2 Cor 7:10-11). Renew your dedication to Christ (Rom 12:1-2).

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Share about a time when you celebrated some kind of physical growth, or perhaps academic, athletic, or general personal growth? Do you think we should better celebrate spiritual growth?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4. What do you observe about the Christians of Corinth?
4. Out of the five points listed under "The tragedy of Christian immaturity" in the outline, which one seems the most tragic to you? Why?
5. Share about a time when you stopped growing spiritually. How did that happen? What did God do? What did you do?
6. Read Colossians 3:1-4. What do you see in these verses that relates to our experience of sanctification (all three phases of it)?
7. Read Philippians 2:12-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, and 1 Peter 1:14. What do you observe about "progressive sanctification" in these verses?
8. What are some specific ways you have grown in Christ since you became a Christian?
9. Paul constantly reminds the Corinthians of their secure identity in Christ (1 Cor 1:2, 6:11). Why is this so important? How does this assurance (of "positional sanctification") empower our spiritual growth ("progressive sanctification")?
10. Is there any sin you need to repent of today? Why not confess your sin and invite accountability from others? Take some time to pray for each other to grow in holiness.

## FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4, Philippians 2:12-13, Colossians 3:1-4, Hebrews 5:11-14, Hebrews 10:8-14

Read about the timeline of Paul's relationship with Corinth  
– <https://bit.ly/corinthstimeline>

Choose a Bible reading plan for 2024 – <https://bit.ly/bibleplans2024>

Read about sanctification – <https://bit.ly/yoursanctification>

Read about progressive sanctification  
– <https://bit.ly/progressivesanctification>

Meditate on your identity in Christ – [https://bit.ly/identity\\_inchrist](https://bit.ly/identity_inchrist)

Read *How Does Sanctification Work?* by David Powlinson

Listen to "Life Defined" – [https://bit.ly/lifedefined\\_](https://bit.ly/lifedefined_)

Listen to "Holiness" – <https://bit.ly/holinesssong>

