The Adult Table: Marks of Christian Maturity

1 Corinthians 3
March 15, 2026| Pastor Michael Foster

⇒ The Tragedy of Christian Immaturity (vv. 1-3)

⇒ Some Expressions of Christian Immaturity (vv. 3-4)

⇒ Some Expressions of Christian Maturity (vv. 5-17)

⇒ Freedom and Faithfulness: The Marks of Christian Maturity (vv. 18-23)

Repeat after Paul:
All is mine (by God's grace)!
I am Christ's (for God's glory)!

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 3:16
- Read Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10, Colossians 3:1-4, James 3:13-18, 1 Peter 2:1-2
- Read "All Things are Yours" – bit.ly/AllAreYours
- Read "Be Careful How You Build" – bit.ly/CarefulHowyouBuild
- Read about how to grow spiritually – bit.ly/GrowSpiritually1
- Read "Maturity can be measured" – bit.ly/MaturityCanBeMeasured
- Pray for spiritual growth – bit.ly/Pray4SpiritualGrowth
- Listen to "Life Defined" – bit.ly/LifeDefined
- Listen to "Build My Life" – bit.ly/BuildMyLife1
- Listen to "All I Have is Christ" – bit.ly/AllIHaveisChrist
- Read *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness* by Keller
- Read *Improving Your Serve* by Swindoll

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you the most from the message?
2. Share about any experience you have had in your family sitting at the "kids' table" or the "adult table." What comes to mind when you think of typical markers of Christian maturity?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4. What is so tragic about Christian immaturity? What are some dangers of it? What are some ways you have fallen victim to it yourself? And how has the Lord graciously matured you?
4. Read verses 5-9. What applications can we make from these verses to our own lives and ministries?
5. Read verses 10-15 along with 2 Corinthians 5:10. What does it mean to "receive a reward" or to "suffer loss" (vv. 14-15)? How should this motivate us in our service of the Lord?
6. Read verses 16-17. What are some simple ways we can ensure we are valuing and protecting the unity of God's church, which is Paul's concern in this context.
7. FREEDOM – Read verses 18-23. We noted how understanding that "All things are yours" frees us from being <u>fearful</u> (seeing others/circumstances as threats and protecting self) and <u>forceful</u> (seeing others/circumstances as props and promoting self). How does understanding this protect us from becoming divided? What else does it protect us from?
8. In what ways lately have you been more driven by a desire to protect or promote yourself rather than a desire to trust and serve the Lord? What consequences is this bringing about in your life? How might people around you be experiencing you when you function in these ways?
9. FAITHFULNESS – How does the truth that "You are Christ's" shape the way you approach your life and ministry? Be specific!
10. Read Romans 12:2. What is one way you can "renew your mind" that would be appropriate for those sitting at the Christian "adult table"? And how will you specifically change your thinking?