

Celebrating the Lord's Table



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Philippians 1:3-11

May 5, 2019

- Language creates culture (the words we use create the world we live in).
- ❖ “**A Disciple** is a devoted follower of Jesus. The term *apprentice* is an accurate picture of the Greek word, *mathetes*.”
- ❖ **A Disciple** is an eager learner and devoted follower of Jesus. He/she loves God’s Word and longs live God’s Way.

➤ Language creates culture (the words we use create the world we live in).

❖ “**A Mature believer** lives for Christ, gives systematically to furthering God’s kingdom, serves the church faithfully, and is not a consumer, but a contributor to what the body has to offer.”

❖ **A Mature Believer** faithfully lives for Christ - i.e. faithful in the WORD, in prayer, in worship, in giving, in serving, and in sharing. A Mature Believer is not a consumer, but a contributor.

➤ **Philippians 1:3–7**

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,⁵ for your fellowship (partnership) in the gospel from the first day until now,⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

➤ Philippians 1:8–11

For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. ⁹And this I pray, that **your love** may **abound** still **more and more** in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ **that you may approve** the **things that are excellent**, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ **being filled with the fruits of righteousness** which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

➤ 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

For **I received from the Lord** that which I also **delivered to you**: that **the Lord Jesus** on the *same* night in which He was betrayed **took bread**; ²⁴ and when He had **given thanks**, ***He broke it and said***, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken **for you**; **do this in remembrance of Me.**” ²⁵ In the same manner *He also took* the cup after supper, **saying**, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This **do**, as often as **you** drink *it*, **in remembrance of Me.**”

➤ 1 Corinthians 11:26–27

*²⁶ For as often as **you eat** this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.** ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*

➤ 1 Corinthians 11:28–30

²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

➤ Prayerfully Consider Romans 12:1–2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*.

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove (discern) what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God**.

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

- Philippians 1:3–6 I **thank my God** upon **every remembrance of you**, ⁴ always **in every prayer of mine** making request for you all **with joy**, ⁵ for **your fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now, ⁶ being **confident** of this very thing, that **He** who has begun a **good work in you** **will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;

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- Philippians 1:7–8 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because **I have you in my heart**, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, **you all are partakers with me of grace.**⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly **I long for you** all with **the affection of Jesus Christ.**

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

- Philippians 1:9–11 And **this I pray**, that your **love may abound** still **more and more** in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ **that you may approve** the **things that are excellent**, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ **being filled with the fruits of righteousness**—which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

A. The Prayer of a Maturing Disciple.

- Philippians 1:9 And **this I pray**, that your love **may abound** still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

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A. The Prayer of a Maturing Disciple.

- **Prayer is the power** to wield the weapon of the Word
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, **pray for us**, that **the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified**, just as *it is* with you,

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- Philippians 1:9 And **this I pray**, that **your love** may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
- Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God** has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us
- Gal. 5:22 But the **fruit of the Spirit is love**

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

A. The Prayer of a Maturing Disciple.

- “The love of Christ involves a *delightful and affectionate apprehension* of His divine perfections which **makes our soul resign and sacrifice** itself wholly unto Him, **desiring** above all things **to please Him**. It is ready to do or suffer any thing for His sake.”

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

A. The Prayer of a Maturing Disciple.

- Philippians 1:9 And **this I pray**, that your love **may abound** still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
- 1 Corinthians 13:6 it (**Love**) does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but **rejoices with the truth**

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

B. The Discipline of a Maturing Disciple.

- Philippians 1:10 that you may **approve the things that are excellent**, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

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B. The Discipline of a Maturing Disciple.

- Philippians 4:8–9 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you,

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B. The Discipline of a Maturing Disciple.

- Hebrews 5:13–14 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But **solid food** belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who **by reason of use** have their **senses exercised** to **discern both good and evil.**

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

C. The Pursuit of a Maturing Disciple.

- Philippians 1:10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, **that you may be sincere (pure) and without offense (blameless)** till the day of Christ,

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

D. The Measure of a Mature Disciple.

- Philippians 1:11 **filled with the fruit of righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
- Ephesians 2:10 For we are **His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them**,

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

D. The Measure of a Mature Disciple.

- Psalm 139:23–24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And **lead me in the way everlasting.**

Examining the Maturity of A Christ-like Disciple

D. The Measure of a Mature Disciple.

- Philippians 1:11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
- Galatians 5:22–23 But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.