



- ❖ **A life worthy of the calling to which we have been called means we grow up!**
 - Spiritual Growth (Maturity):
 - Allowing the Spirit to enter, take up residence, spread out, and do whatever he wishes
 - Not a natural process, but a supernatural one
 - Goal is to become “like Christ”...but there’s always work to be done!
 - *Is not inevitable* – it’s a partnership requiring our participation (God leads, we follow)

- ❖ **Am I Living a Life Worthy of the Calling?**
 - You bring nothing to the party!
 - God’s choice (of you, of the Gentiles) wasn’t based on your ability, your specialness, or your merit – at all!
 - God matters more than you do
 - Our posture should be awe and submission

- ❖ **We must fight to keep the unity of the Spirit that God established**
 - Doctrine unites us (vv. 4-6)
 - Other matters *can* divide us...but, they don’t have to. We choose which battles to fight.

- ❖ **At the same time, we honor ourselves and others by using the spiritual gifts to grow to maturity**
 - Human value in a Christian sense is rooted in the Image of God
 - We have the potential to be *filled* (with what?)
 - The spiritual gifts are meant to move us all to maturity
 - Christ is the head. He is full, and he is perfect
 - The body has some “catching up” work to do!

- ❖ The price of immaturity:
 - Glory seeking
 - Inability to cope with diversity of thought or makeup
 - Falling for shifting theological fads
 - Fights, quarrels, dishonoring each other
 - No moral difference between the “church people” and the rest of the world

- ❖ **Thinking It Through**
 - Do you struggle with the statements, “You bring nothing to the party” and “God matters more than you”? What are your sticking points with those?

- Is spiritual growth and maturity important to you? Why?
- What have you typically understood “spiritual growth” to mean? Does that phrase have positive connotations, or negative ones?
- Is anything in your life blocking or hindering the Spirit from doing what it wants in you?
- What’s worth fighting for in church? Do you see a difference between “fighting for” and “fighting over,” and if so, what’s the difference?
- Who is someone – in ministry or not – who has helped you grow to maturity?
- What did they do that helped?
- Who is someone you are helping to grow to maturity? If it’s no one, why not?
- Complete this sentence: “In a truly spiritually mature church,
_____”
- How confident are you that you can withstand false or deceptive teaching? What is your strategy or practice for being filled with truth and discerning truth from error?
- What’s the most important way in which you need to grow?