

## God's Green Thumb

What God Plants - Grows: **Maturity**

Matthew 5:43-48; Ephesians 4:11-12, 13-15;  
Galatians 5:16-18 and 25-26

### Are you Religious, Spiritual or Mature?

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:43-48

### Perfect = Mature

27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Matthew 23:27-28

Whitewashed tombs - the look spiritual with no maturity.

### So how do we determine maturity?

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the **mature** body of him who is the head, **that is, Christ.**

Ephesians 4:11-15

**Mature:** Our lives will begin to look a lot more like Jesus.

and...

everyone should really **love to be around Christians.**

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Introduce Prayer Time

Music

Sermon Part 2

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*16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:16-18*

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\*\*How do we know if we are **walking** by the Spirit?  
or **keeping in step** with the Spirit?

— We **are becoming** more: Loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled.

### **And a 'more' Christlike**

husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend, father, sibling, student, friend, boss, co-worker, employee...

**Who are you becoming....**