



Working it out

1. Carey Nieuwhof wrote: *I've noticed that the people who often claimed to be the most spiritually 'mature' (or at least on that quest) are often people who are somewhat judgmental, generally disinterested in reaching their unchurched friends, self-focused, serially dissatisfied, often unwilling to actually commit long-term to any local church.*

Do you think Carey's observations are accurate, why, or why not?

What do you think causes some Christians to grow to become more like the Pharisees than to become more like Christ?

2. What are some of the things we can do as a church to grow in the fifth priority to build healthy relationships?

How can you make this a personal priority in your life?

What is the first step to doing this?

3. What are some concrete examples of the three marks of a maturing believer in your life?

Which mark are you struggling with the most right now?

What is the first step you can take this week to grow in this area?



Praying Through

1. Pray for the specific ways that you need to grow as the result of this study.
2. As we finish up the *Assess Church Health* stage of IPM's process, ask the Lord to give our church family insight into His will and direction for our church.
3. Ask the Lord to help us as a church to discover His will and to grow through the journey and not just focus on the destination of finding our long-term pastor.

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Marks of a Maturing Believer

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3

In addition to the 4 priorities previously shared, the Transition Team and General Board recommends the church embrace this final priority:

5. Build healthy _____ where biblical one another commands are practiced, grace is freely extended, forgiveness and reconciliation are championed, and the unity of the Spirit is guarded in the bond of peace.

Three Marks of a Maturing Believer:

1. **A heart overflowing with _____.**
2Timothy 3:1-5; 1Thess. 5:16-18; Col. 2:6-7; Eph. 5:3-4; Lk. 17:11-19

Christ Evangelical Free Church
Pastor Randy Keeley

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2. A life of _____.
2Cor. 9:5-8, 10-11; 1Tim. 6:6-11

3. Living out _____ and truth.
2Pet. 3:18; 2Tim. 2:11; Acts 4:32-35; John 1:14

Reflection – Discussion – Application



Warming up

Even though this past year has been difficult in many different ways, what are you most thankful for?



Digging In

1. Read Luke 17:11-19. When it comes to gratitude to God for what you have asked Him to do, are you more like the one who returned or the nine that didn't?

What are some of the things that keep people from being grateful?

What do you think is different about people who express gratitude?

2. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. Paul gives instructions for living a life worthy of our calling in Christ in these verses. What are the marks of maturity for a healthy church in this passage?
3. Read Acts 4:32-35. What are some of the ways in which grace and generosity are linked?