

IMMATURE, IMMATURITY

The Corinthian church were "babes in Christ". In other words, they were exceedingly **immature**. (Yet Paul was still grateful for their existence.)

- **1 Corinthians 3:1:** "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ."

When preaching to a church, it's important to keep its maturity level in mind. There are some teachings that can't be handled by those who are spiritually **immature**. An immature church needs a different type of ministry than a mature one.

- **1 Corinthians 3:1:** "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ."

Our desire should be to teach the weightier matters of Christianity, and to move a church beyond **immaturity** to maturity.

- **1 Corinthians 3:2:** "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."

It's possible for churches to fail to grow and remain spiritually **immature**, in spite of being taught the truth.

- **1 Corinthians 3:2:** "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."

If there's sin or division in a church then it's carnal and can't handle weighty spiritual matters. That church is spiritually **immature**.

- **1 Corinthians 3:3:** "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

The basic "first principles" of Christianity are salvation by faith, faith in God, water baptism, baptism of the Spirit, the apostolic gifts, the rapture, and the eternal judgment. Christians should know *all* of these things, because they represent the very basic "first principles". Christians who don't know these things are **immature**.

- **Hebrews 6:1-2:** "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."