

FULL-GROWN, MATURE, MATURED, MATURITY

It seems plants grew extremely rapidly right after the flood. (Just a short time after the flood ended, there were olive trees which were **mature** enough to have leaves).

- **Genesis 8:11:** "And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth."

Corn that's been blasted before it can **mature** is weak.

- **2 Kings 19:26:** "Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the house tops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up."

A woman must reach sexual **maturity** before she can be married.

- **Song of Solomon 8:8-9:** "We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for? If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will inclose her with boards of cedar."

In the days of Ezekiel, violence was prevalent throughout Israel. It had **matured** into terrible wickedness.

- **Ezekiel 7:2, 11:** "Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land. ... Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of their's: neither shall there be wailing for them."

God compared the nation of Israel to a baby that was once naked and polluted and left to die, but who He had rescued. God greatly blessed her, and she eventually reached full **maturity** and became a beautiful woman.

- **Ezekiel 16:4-7:** "And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born. And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live. I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare."

God compared those who feared Him to young calves that were not yet grown. He promised that He would watch over them and raise them to **maturity**.

- **Malachi 4:2:** "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and

ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."

When the seed sprouts, it takes time for the plant to reach **maturity**. (The lesson is that people need to mature in the faith before they can start bearing fruit.)

- **Mark 4:28:** "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

Paul couldn't speak to the Corinthian church about spiritual matters because they weren't **mature** enough to handle it.

- **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 (to help it grow into spiritual maturity).

- **1 Corinthians 3:1-2:** "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 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 not wrong to examine the spiritual **maturity** of a church and deal with them on that level, instead of trying to give them material they're not mature enough to understand.

(However, this is a matter of spiritual maturity, *not* hiding doctrines they disagree with in order to be more appealing.)

- **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."

Only **mature** churches are able to handle the weightier matters of the Scriptures.

- **1 Corinthians 3:1-2:** "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 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."

A spiritually **mature** church won't be plagued with envy, strife, or division.

- **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?"

Seeds must die before they can bring forth fruit. As long as the seed remains a seed it will never sprout and become a **full-grown** plant.

- **1 Corinthians 15:36-37:** "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:"

When seeds are sown, what's being sown isn't the **full-grown** plant but the seed. The seed is transformed underground and then turns into a full-grown plant.

- **1 Corinthians 15:37:** "And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:"

Fathers have a responsibility to make sure their children receive the correction and instruction they need to become **mature** adults.

- **Galatians 4:1-2:** "Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father."

One day Christians will grow up in all things. We'll become fully **mature** in every area of our lives and will lack nothing.

- **Ephesians 4:15:** "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

The day of the rapture is the day God's work in us will be completed. In that moment we'll become fully **mature**.

- **Philippians 1:6:** "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

There's a principle that the person who works in the field to grow food must be the first person to partake of that food. They have the right to it because they worked to make the

fruit grow and **mature**.

- **2 Timothy 2:6:** "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits."

Being able to tell the difference between good and evil is one of the signs of a **mature** Christian.

- **Hebrews 5:14:** "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Being double minded and full of doubt isn't a virtue or a sign of **maturity**. Instead it's a sign of instability.

- **James 1:8:** "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."