

## Rules or Spontaneity? Yes!

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### *How do we mature?*

### *How do we cooperate with God's design to transform us?*

#### **2 common, but flawed methods of Christian Maturing:**

#### **1. \_\_\_\_\_: If I know & keep the rules, God will transform me**

Can you think of an example of people like this in Jesus day?

#### *What complicates this is what Jesus says:*

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:17

#### **2. \_\_\_\_\_: I just need to do what come naturally**

#### *What complicates this view is what Paul says:*

- "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind....**" Romans 12:2a
- "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but **I press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.  
<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and **straining toward what is ahead,** <sup>14</sup> **I press on** toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus". Philippians 3:12-14
- "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:..." Colossians 3:5a
- "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that **those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**" Galatians 5:19-21

The reason these popular methods are flawed is because they contain a part, but not all, the truth!

## The New Testament formula for Christian Maturity: \_\_\_\_\_

- "We remember before our God and Father your work **produced by faith**, your labor **prompted by love**, and your endurance **inspired by hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- "But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, **putting on faith and love** as a breastplate, and the **hope of salvation** as a helmet." 1 Thessalonians 5:8
- "...because we have **heard of your faith** in Christ Jesus and of the **love you have** for all God's people— <sup>5</sup> **the faith and love that spring from the hope** stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel..." Colossians 1:4-5
- "And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love**. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13
- \_\_\_\_\_
- "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:4-6
- \_\_\_\_\_
- "But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

### **We Mature in Christ is by learning the Kingdom habits of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ so when facing Spiritual Tests, we will be able to respond instinctively as a Follower of Jesus should.**

- "...Then you **will be able to test and approve** what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2b

#### **Bottomline:**

"...to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> 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." Ephesians 4:12-13

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible. You may make comments or ask questions about this message by emailing Bro. Tony at:

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