

"The Essence of True Maturity: Embracing Imperfection and Ambiguity"

Someone once defined maturity as "the ability to live with ambiguity."

When we are young, we tend to see the world in black and white. Things are either right or wrong, good or bad, with no in-between. However, as we grow older and gain more life experience, we come to realize that life is not so simple. We begin to see that even good people have flaws, and those who seem bad may have some good in them. We learn that even correct opinions can have errors, and mistaken ideas can contain some truth. This understanding brings us to a place of greater tolerance and patience, which is a sign of maturity.

The Apostle Paul advises us not to judge others hastily. His first reason is that we cannot fully understand another person's motives (1 Corinthians 4:5). Secondly, he reminds us that it is God who has the authority to judge (Romans 14:10). To truly follow these teachings, we need to mature, and by obeying them, we grow in maturity.

An immature person who cannot accept others often becomes a perfectionist. Such a person not only struggles to accept the imperfections in others but also in themselves, leading to a life filled with constant dissatisfaction and tension. Immature perfectionists can even become destructive. A stark example of this is Adolf Hitler, who caused World War II. He wanted to create a perfect society, believing that the Germanic race was superior and should dominate the world. He encouraged marriages between Nordic white people and sought to eliminate those he considered inferior, like the Jews, whom he mass-murdered. This is an extreme example of how destructive immature perfectionism can be. Perfectionism destroys both oneself and others.

Some might argue, "Doesn't the Bible tell us to be perfect?" And yes, the Lord does say, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). However, when Jesus speaks of being perfect, He means not being biased. Just as God sends rain on the fields of both the righteous and the wicked, we too should love not only good people but also those who are bad.

Pursuing perfection itself is not a bad thing. We should strive constantly to be like our Lord, to do His work with excellence. In life, we should aim to live so blamelessly that we can say, like the Apostle Paul, "I have fought the good fight" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). However, we must also acknowledge that no matter how hard we try, neither we nor

others can ever be completely perfect. Therefore, we must be compassionate towards ourselves and others. This is what true maturity looks like.