

The List

Pt. 2 - Grown Up Christmas List

Joke - What's the difference between a drummer and a publicly traded stock? The stock will eventually mature and make money!

- One of the true signs of maturity is the list of those things you wish for.

Example - Trying to get gift ideas from Donna

1 Corinthians 13:11, When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. But when I became an adult, I set aside childish ways.

Note - Self-awareness is the first fruit of maturity.

Quote - We've reached maturity the day we don't have to be lied to anymore.

- Spiritual maturity requires intentionality.

Note - We are what we eat!

Hebrews 5:14, Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Example - Spoon feeding Ezekiel
Poppying and pastoring (Growth track)

Six Signs of Maturity

1. Putting others first.

1 Corinthians 14:20, Dear brothers and sisters, don't be childish in your understanding of these things. Be innocent as babies when it comes to evil, but be mature in understanding matters of this kind.

Note - Here, Paul is addressing what happens in a church service.

Example - Parking and reserved seats and the songs I like.

Note - Our grown up Christmas list should start with seeing the lost come to Christ!

2. Loving like Jesus.

1 Corinthians 13:11, When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

Note - Maturity looks like the love chapter.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Note - Our grown up Christmas list should include a greater capacity to love.

3. Taking our place in the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-16, Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Note - Our grown up Christmas list should include a desire to be used by God.

4. Discipling others.

Hebrews 5:11-14, There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. 12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature,

who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Note - Our grown up Christmas list should include good leadership.

5. Moving beyond set backs, hurts, failures and regrets.

Philippians 3:10-15, I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. 12 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. 13 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, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

Note - Our grown up Christmas list should include forgiveness.

6. Refusing to act like the world.

1 Peter 2:1-2, So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. 2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation.

Note - Our grown up Christmas list should include holiness.

- Maturity begins by abandoning immaturity.

Hebrews 12:1, Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Note - Maturity means you live by your commitments, not your feelings.

What childish things should you put away?