

# Know That You KNOW GOD

(A Study Through 1 John)

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Community Church

February 1 & 2, 2020  
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## CONDITIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP

“**Grow in Maturity**” 1John 2:12-14

Maturity isn't age, appearance, activity, achievements, or academics. Maturity is becoming more and more like Christ in character and conduct (Rom8:29; Gal5:22-23).

### What Are the Stages of Spiritual Growth?

**CHILDHOOD:** vv12 & 13c

- Children are unstable, self-centered, easily distracted and gullible. 1Cor3:1-4
- Children are sensitive to criticism, insecure about what others think about them, reluctant to repent, overwhelmed by failure, and they perpetually questioning God's love and care for them.
- Children intellectually have Christ as their Savior and Lord but functionally someone or something else is at the center of their lives; therefore, they have extreme highs and lows emotionally.

**ADOLESCENCE:** v13b, 14b

You know you've moved from Childhood to Adolescence when you...

- Know the difference between junk food, milk and solid food. Heb5:11-14; 6:1
- Are less dependent upon others feeding you and begin to learn to feed yourself. Ps1:1-3; Matt4:4
- Are living a life of faith which is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted (God's Word) in spite of your changing moods. -CSL 2Cor5:7

**ADULTHOOD:** vv13 & 14; Ps8; Pro9:10; Isa6:1-7

The Advanced Stage of Christianity is...

- Knowing God and really communing with Him. John17:3; 1Cor13:11
- Maintaining spiritual disciplines that don't just heat up in hardship but are consistently fervent because you absolutely love the presence of God more than anything. Rom12:11
- Embracing times of intense wrestling with God for your and other's progress and joy in the faith. 2Tim4:7; Gal4:19; Col4:12; Gen32; Ex33

Three things God gives you to grow you up: **One:** you get a Position- you're totally forgiven. **Two:** you get a Power- the Word of God abides in you. **Three:** you get a Person- intimacy with God is life's most satisfying reality!

### Growing Notes

- 1) Maturity isn't age, appearance, activity, achievements, or academics. Explain. What is spiritual maturity (Rom8:29; Gal5:22-23)?
- 2) Read 1John2:12-14. What are your observations of this text? Who are the three groups John is addressing? What is he saying about each of these three groups? What are the three stages of spiritual growth?
- 3) What are the characteristics of a child (see sermon notes)? These characteristics can be age appropriate for a new born believer but what happens when they fail to grow up? How important is our position in Christ as a young believer (1John 2:12,13c; Rom5:1)?
- 4) How do you know you've moved from childhood to adolescence as a Christian (see sermon notes)? How do the young men overcome the evil one (v13b, 14b)? Adolescence is where God starts to call you to face things without the sense of his presence and his love. It's God saying to you, "It's time to cross the street by yourself." Explain.
- 5) What are the characteristics of adulthood (see sermon notes)? Adult Christians have a very high view of God. What is it & what difference does it make? Where are you spiritually: Childhood, Adolescence, Adulthood? What three things does God give to us for our spiritual growth? Pray that db would be a place of spiritual growth. (2Pet3:18)