

## Spiritual [Im]Maturity Part 7: The Pay-Off

### Discussion Guide – November 2 2025

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Gal. 5:22-23

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. <sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

13 This [Building up the Body of Christ] 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. Ephesians 4:1-2, 13-16

#### Quotes

"The fruit of the Spirit is the natural product of the Spirit's control, and its purpose is not self-display but service.... The Spirit produces fruit for the benefit of others, not for our own self-admiration" John Stott

"In the spiritual life, growth toward maturity always draws us into deeper community. Isolation is the enemy of formation." Richard Foster

"Spiritual maturity is largely measured by unity, not by uniformity, and certainly not by individualism. To grow up into Christ is to grow together in love." John Stott

#### Discussion Questions

1. When you think back on this series about spiritual maturity, what teaching or theme has most impacted you personally?
2. The message suggested that the "fruit of the Spirit" is produced *for others*, not ourselves. How does that challenge how we normally think about spiritual growth?
3. Which "fruit" do you see most naturally in your life right now, and which might God be inviting you to cultivate more intentionally?
4. What are the dangers of remaining "spiritual children," easily swayed by every new idea or argument?
5. What's the difference between *unity* and *uniformity* in the church? How can we pursue one without falling into the other?
6. Pastor Steve said, "Maturity has to happen in community." How do you see that play out—or fail to play out—at Grassroots?