

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Sojourn // The Path of Maturity*

*Pastor Gabe*

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**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?

**Reading:** 1 Peter 2:1-12

### Outline:

- I. Make your desire singular (v. 1-3).
  - A. Peter reminds the early Christians that they have been born again through the imperishable word of the gospel. He tells them to get rid of all evil out of their lives and instead long for spiritual growth and maturity.
  - B. The path towards maturity starts with a desire for the goodness of God in your life. Sometimes, it seems like we want the personal and social benefits of faith rather than an actual relationship with God. However, in order to endure times when there are no social benefits to the faith, we need spiritual maturity.

**Q: Have you experienced a time where there were no social benefits to your faith? How did it feel?**
- II. Embrace your identity (v. 4-5)
  - A. Spiritual maturity comes from continuing to come to Jesus, again and again. We never outgrow the Gospel, but instead, some of the most spiritually mature people are the most dependent on the Gospel.
  - B. When we accept and embrace the identity we have in Christ, God can expose sin in our life and meet us with grace, which eventually can lead to us being filled with joy and peace. Spiritual maturity involves learning to let go of control.

**Q: How do you or can you embrace your identity in Christ?**
- III. Live honorably towards others (v. 9-12)
  - A. Because of Christ's finished work on the cross and in the empty tomb, God looks at us and says, "You are a priest in my kingdom. You are the bridge between God and humanity."
  - B. As we embrace who we are in Christ and mature spiritually, it transforms our relationships with others. When we live honorably around those who don't believe what we believe, we can open doors to glorify God through showing his love for others.

**Q: How can we show God's love to those around us in our everyday lives?**

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we support each other in making our desires singular?
- 2) How can we desire the goodness of God in our lives, even when we don't feel like it?
- 3) How can we learn to let go of control in order to spiritually mature?
- 4) Why is it sometimes hard to embrace our identity in Christ?

### Suggestions for further study:

- Titus 3:3-5 Q: How do these verses give an image of growing from spiritual immaturity to maturity?
- Ephesians 5:8-11 Q: How do these verses describe spiritual maturity?

### Closing Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for your goodness that we see in our lives. Teach us to long for more of your goodness and to continue to come to you, remembering that we do not outgrow the Gospel. Continue to mature us spiritually, and help us to show your love to all those around us. Amen.