

United Christian Church's Vision

Need and Importance of Vision



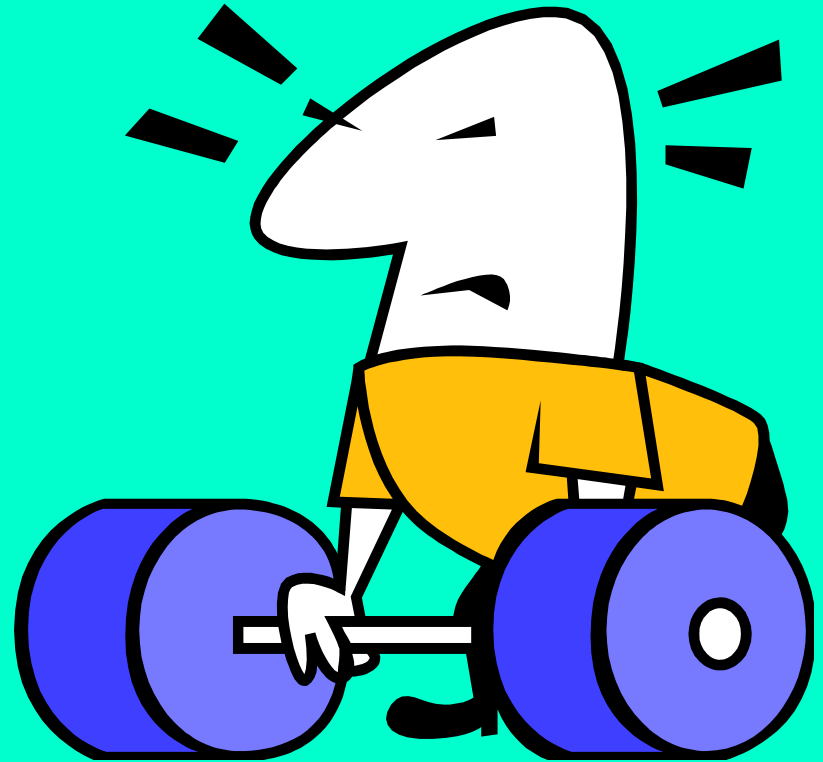
Importance of Vision

- **Men of Issachar knew what Israel should do because they possessed a vision. (1st Chronicles 12:32)**



UCC's Vision Statement...

- **“ To build a mature body of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
(Colossians 1:27-28,
Ephesians 4:11-13,
Hebrew 5:11 & 6:1-3)**



Definition of Maturity

- **“To bring something to its end or its goal or completion.”**
- **Jim Boyce comments that “this word means complete, as when a ship is fitted out perfectly for sea or a legion of soldiers is equipped in all respects for battle.”**



Definition of Maturity, Cont.

I believe a mature Christian is someone who has trusted Jesus Christ as his/her personal savior and Lord, controlled by the Holy Spirit, who uses the gifts for the service of God, practices spiritual discipline diligently, is involved in the Christian service, has good discernment, has a sound doctrine, is a good steward of God's resources, and is making progress in their Christian life.



Biblical Imperatives

- **1st Corinthians 2:6**
 - “We do, however speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.”
- **Ephesians 4:13**
 - “Until we all reach in unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”
- **Colossians 1:28**
 - “We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.”



Biblical Imperatives

- **Hebrews 5:3**
 - “This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.”
- **Hebrews 6:1**
 - “Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God.”



Stages of Maturity

- Infant (Hebrew 5:13)
- Child (1st Corinthians 13)
- Adolescent
- Adult



Characteristics of a Mature Christian

- A mature Christian is controlled by the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- A mature Christian practices spiritual discipline diligently (1st Timothy 4:11-16)

Discipline of Abstinence:

1st Peter 2:11

- Solitude, Silence, Sacrifice, Fasting, Frugality, Secrecy
- Discipline of Engagement
- Study, Worship, Celebration, Service, Prayer, Fellowship, Confession, Submission



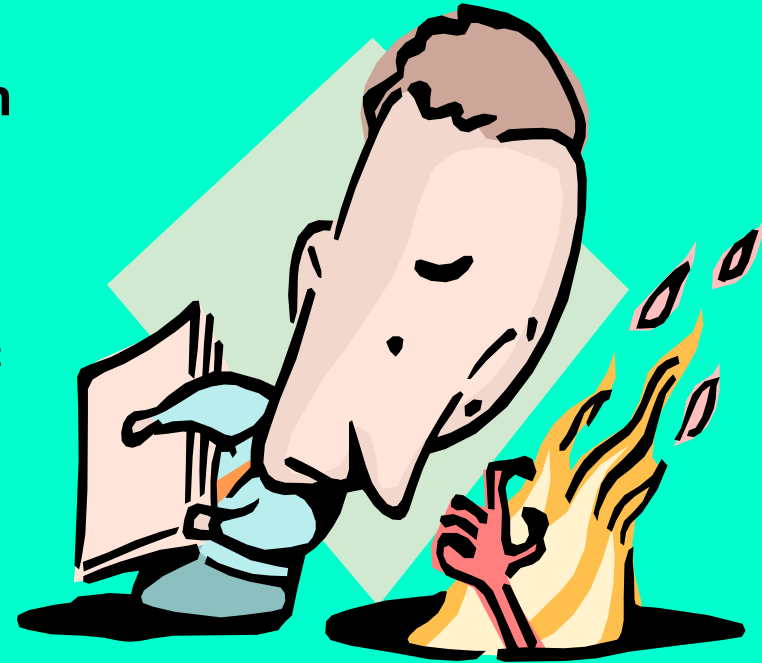
Characteristics of a Mature Christian, Cont.

- A mature Christian uses the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the service of God in the body and in the Work. (Ephesians 4:11-13, 1st Corinthians 12: 13-22, 1st Timothy 4:11-13)
- A mature Christian has sound Biblical doctrine knowledge. (Ephesians 4:11-13, Hebrews 5:11 & 6:1)



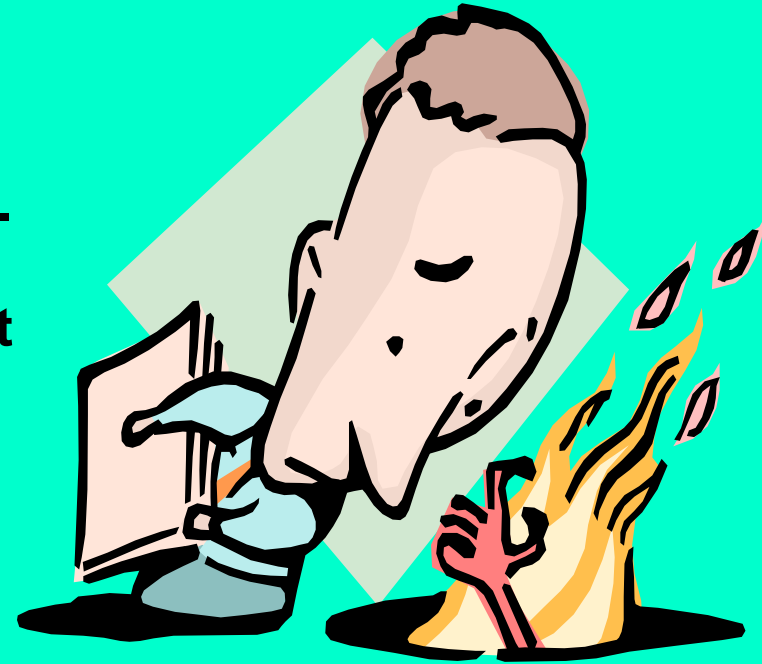
Characteristics of a Mature Christian, Cont.

- A mature Christian is involved in Christian service in the local body and is an active, functional part. (Hebrew 10:25, 1st Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:11-13)
- A mature Christian is able to discern what is right and wrong. (Ephesians 4:11-16, 1st Corinthians 2:15)
- A mature Christian is a good steward of God's resources, using time, talent, and treasure wisely.



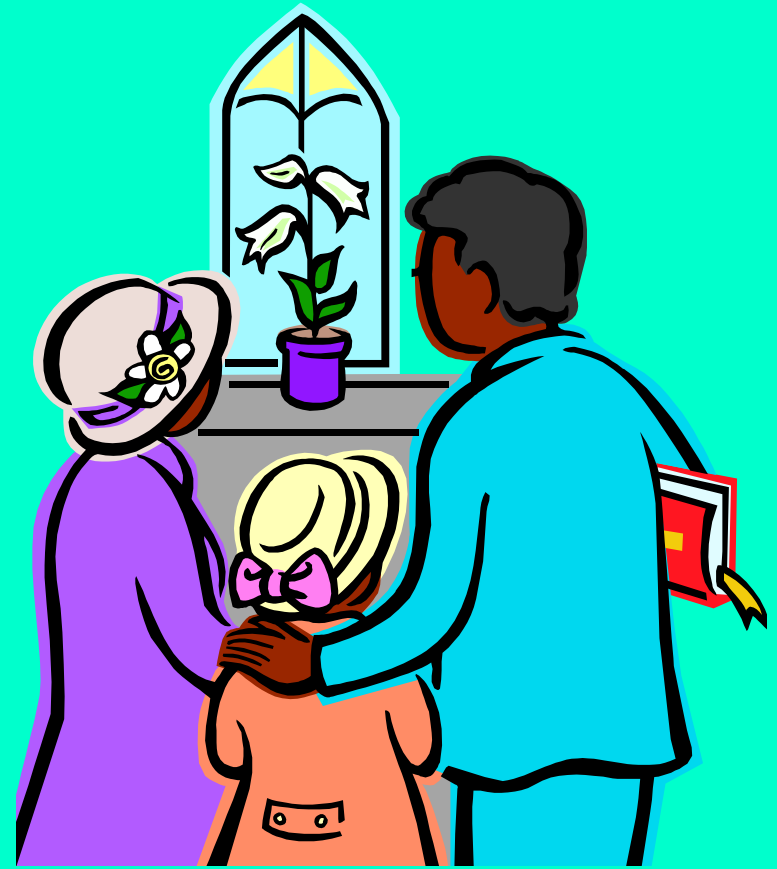
Characteristics of a Mature Christian, Cont.

- A mature Christian makes steady progress in every area of his Christian life. (1st Timothy 4:11-15, Philippians 3:12-15)
- A mature Christian is becoming like Christ in his Christian character. (Galatians 5:22,24; Philippians 2:5-11)
- A mature Christian has a Godly home life. (Ephesians 5:22 & 6:1-4)



Agents of Growth

- **God the Holy Spirit**
- **The Local Church**
- **Individual believers**



Conclusion

- Without vision people perish.
- We must have vision based upon God's revelation to us.
- The vision of UCC is "to build a mature body of Christ with the help of God the Holy Spirit."
- A mature Christian is Christ-like and is balanced in all areas of his life.

