

## THE CHRISTIAN GRADUATE

**Hebrews 5:11-6:3     1 Corinthians 3:1-3**

**Introduction:** There was a time when "graduation" meant high school and college was completed. Nowadays there is a "graduation" from Day Care, Kindergarten, Grade School, Junior High School and of course High School. There are graduations from Vocational schools, Under graduate "graduations" and then the "post-graduate" graduations. Most of us have "graduated" from something at one time or another. We are excited when our children graduate from school, college and on to doctoral graduations. Did you ever consider the Christian life as having "levels" or such a thing as "graduation?" Paul writes about the Christian life and different "levels" of spiritual maturity. He mentions that some Christians remain at the "bottle" level and need to move on to "solid food" levels.

**1. Most Christians remain in at a "grade school" level or even "kindergarten level" even though they have been a Christian for many years.**

- Born into God's family as a newborn.
- Very little progress or spiritual maturity.

**2. Why do some Christians never seem to grow or "pass on to another grade?"**

- Some don't attend classes (services) enough.
- Some don't listen to their teacher (the Holy Spirit).
- Some don't read their Book (the Bible).
- Some don't do their assignments (obey the Holy Spirit).
- Some don't take their tests (run from testing and trials by the Holy Spirit).
- Some don't pay attention in class (services or Sunday School), their mind is somewhere else.
- Some had rather "play" because "spiritual classes" are not that important.

**3. God wants all His Children to "graduate" to mature, to grow up Spiritually.**

- No parent wants to see his/her child remain undeveloped and stay a "baby" or small child forever.
- Every parent wants to see his/her child move beyond infant and childish stages.
- Every parent wants his/her child grow and become a healthy, productive adult.
- So it is with God. He wants every one of His children to become a productive "spiritual adult."

**4. To graduate, one must want to.**

- To graduate from a school, the student must want to do what is necessary to graduate.
- The same attitude is necessary in the Christian life. The Christian must want to do whatever God has in mind for him/her to do and allow the Holy Spirit to so equip him/her.

**5. What is "graduation" in the Christian life?**

- It is moving beyond worldly interests.
- It is moving beyond wanting everyone's approval.
- It is moving beyond having to be asked to serve the Lord.
- It is moving beyond the fear of life, death and eternity.
- It is sharing one's faith as the Holy Spirit leads.
- It is adding Diligence and Faith to one's life.

- It is adding Virtue.
- It is adding Knowledge.
- It is adding Temperance.
- It is adding Patience.
- It is adding Godliness.
- It is adding Brotherly Kindness.
- It is adding Charity, Love.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. If God had grades within the Christian life, what grade would you be in?
2. Immaturity in God's family causes:
  - envy, strife, division, non-Christian behavior
3. What if our schools turned out as many graduates as the Church does?
4. There are different levels of spiritual maturity and use-ability in the Christian life. Why not  
*"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of truth..." (2 Timothy 2:15)*