

GCC DEFINITION OF MATURITY:
“A Christ-like soul
loves God and others
in wisdom, passion, and humility.”

LOVE — Expressing Christ in us

Love is the ultimate expression of Christ in us, and results in self-sacrificing service in the kingdom and in ministry to others. When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” It is the commandment that God calls us to above all others because it is the foundation for all others (Matt 22:36-37; John 13:34-35; 1 Cor 13).

WISDOM – Renewing your mind

Wisdom is biblical truth integrated into life. The primary action involved in obtaining wisdom is “renewing your mind.” It is a transforming process by which we stop being conformed to the ways of the world and we begin to share the mind of God. In order to do the will of God, we must know the mind of God. And the primary means of knowing the mind of God is knowing His Word—having a solid grasp of the Bible and its teachings. Although our knowledge of God is more than intellectual knowledge, there is definitely an intellectual component to it. A person who is marked by wisdom thinks biblically; they face life’s situations and ask, “What does the Bible say about this” and then respond accordingly (Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 2:6; 14:20; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Colossians 1:10; 3:10; Hebrews 5:11-14; James 4:7).

PASSION – Aligning your heart

Passion is the expression of a whole heart devoted to the Lord and the things of the His kingdom. It is an expression of emotional health; emotions are good when used appropriately. It results in a passionate pursuit of God and a compassionate engagement with people, both saved and lost. It is more than zeal. It involves having the right emotion, directed towards the right object, to the right degree. It is being zealous for the things of God. It means not allowing your emotions to be the arbiter of truth. But it also means being emotional about the things that Christ was emotional about (Matthew 12:34-35; Romans 12:11; Gal 5:22; Eph 4:31; 1 Timothy 1:5).

HUMILITY – Surrendering your will

Humility is the expression of a life surrendered to the will of God in daily living. It is a life marked by brokenness—one in which personal desires and selfish pursuits are abandoned for the sake of pursuing God’s will and God’s ways. It is a life of Christlikeness that proclaims, “not my will but Your will be done.” It is a life utterly and completely dependent on God (Luke 9:23; 22:42; John 13; Eph 4:2-3; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 5:5).