

The Practice of Maturity

1 Peter 5.5-14

Peter's Epistle, written against the dark background of impending crisis, leaves the unmistakable impression that if believers respond to the information and instructions contained therein they would behave in a mature fashion that would allow them to handle the tough situations well. The closing section of the Epistle contains a number of references to behavior patterns which illustrate this practice of maturity.

Maturity and Authority

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. 1 Peter 5.5

Maturity and Humility

⁵ *All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,*

*'God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.'*

⁶ *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.* 1 Peter 5.5-6

- **First of all, humility is living with a realistic assessment of yourself.**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.
Romans 12.3

- **Secondly, humility is the result of rejected pride.**

*He mocks proud mockers
but gives grace to the humble.* Proverbs 3.34

- **Thirdly, humility is the result of definitive choice.**

² *The evening meal was being served, ...he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and **wrapped a towel around his waist.*** ⁵ *After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

⁶ *He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'*

⁷ *Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'*

⁸ *'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.'*

Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'

¹² *When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them.* ¹⁴ *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.* ¹⁵ *I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

¹⁶ *I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.* ¹⁷ *Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.'* John 13.2-17

Maturity and Anxiety

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5.7

Maturity and Self-Control

⁸ *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

⁹ *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.* 1 Peter 5.8-9

Maturity and Conviction

¹⁰ *And **the God of all grace**, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, **will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*** ¹¹ *To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*
1 Peter 5.10-11