

## Maturity

What is maturity? Is it a state of full development? Or is it a state of accepting and handling responsibility? Perhaps it is a way or manner of handling situations in a responsible fashion. But what is it to be responsible? Is it owning accountability or the ability to make moral decisions concerning yourself and others? Perhaps it is the ability to respond to situations in a truthful and effective manner. When peoples' feelings are involved there are both positive and negative triggers that initiate fight or flight in a person. They either move toward something or move away from it. They react instead of pro-act. In the dualistic world our egos react to situations because our beings are partly physical and live in a dualistic environment. However, we are spiritual beings living in physical bodies that can pro-act in our environment and effect change that is beneficial to all. Do we ignore the rock that's oozing out negative from underneath or do we turn it over and expose it for what it is? That choice is based on our value system. Our values are what we hold true and what is significant to us. If we feel that overturning the rock and exposing the truth is good then it is. If we feel that leaving it alone and allowing someone else to rediscover what we did without any warning from us comes from a selfish value system. Jesus cursed the fig tree to make it obvious to all that it didn't bear fruit. He overturned the rock and exposed the truth. He was pro-active in warning others of the deception it embodied. His values were based on love of God and love of humankind. If we truly want to be like him we need to examine what our value system really is. Do we value truth? Do we value others and their lives? Or do we just value our awareness and our security. You choose.

~Dean A. Banks, D.D.