

## A Mature Understanding

### I. Introduction:

A. Those who are immature see things differently than those who are mature (**Deuteronomy 1:31-39**).

1. This is true physically (**I Corinthians 13:11**).
2. It is also true spiritually (**Ephesians 4:13-14**).

B. In a spiritual sense, this can and often is an indictment (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**).

1. It prevents learning (**Hebrews 5:11-14**).
2. Carnality has to be dealt with to learn (**I Peter 2:1-2**).
3. Then one has to be able to move on from the milk (**Hebrews 6:1-2**).

### II. Body: **I Corinthians 14:20**

A. Your thinking matters in your relationship with God (**Mark 12:28-34**).

1. Think about what was said to the saints in Ephesus and Colosse about their sinful pasts (**Ephesians 2:1-3** and **Colossians 1:21-23**).
2. Thus, the change of mind needs to take place (**Ephesians 4:17-23**).

B. Coming back to an earlier reference (**Ephesians 4:13-14**), notice what is said in the next verse (**Ephesians 4:15**).

1. When someone is stuck in spiritual immaturity, are they really growing up (cf. **Colossians 1:10** and **II Peter 3:18**)?
2. What about when one matures in physical age, but their understanding is lacking (**Job 32:1-9**)?
3. How about those who need to dumb down in one way so that they might grow up in another (**I Corinthians 3:18-19**)?
4. Where will you get the right knowledge, wisdom, and understanding (**Proverbs 2:6**)?

C. With a mature understanding, you can have a great advantage in this world (**Psalms 119:89-105**).

1. You see the world accurately (**I John 5:19**; cf. **John 15:19** and **James 4:4**).
2. Through God's word (**Psalms 19:7**), you are not naive and thus are not such an easy target (**Proverbs 14:15**).
3. You know there's way to handle things because the world is full of recycled garbage (**Ecclesiastes 1:9**).
4. You exercise proper judgment (**Proverbs 18:13** and **John 7:24**).
5. We could go on and on, but the fact remains that mature understanding through God's word fully equips you if you apply it (**II Timothy 3:14-17**).

III. Conclusion: Be mature and understand that there is always more to learn (**Proverbs 9:9**). Be prudent [sensible] and act with knowledge (**Proverbs 13:16**) in the right ways (**Proverbs 15:2**).