

# Big Boy and Girl Church

## Ephesians 4:13-16

Edwin S. Jones  
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Maturity is, to say the least, a much needed attribute in each Christian. Without maturity, we are doomed to fail at the one thing at which we must never fail—Christianity. Therefore, we must understand the church is designed to be driven by “big boys and girls.” Maturity is not an option.

### “Stop Acting Like Children” -- Bill Cosby’s Dad

- There are children and there are children (Matt. 18:1-4; I Cor. 3:1; 14:20)
- God has “grown up” expectations (Heb. 5:12-14; I Cor. 13:11)
- The expectations are reasonable, in keeping with the way God has made us (I Pet. 2:2)
- In maturity, there are individual responsibilities (Eph. 4:11-15) and there are church family expectations (Eph. 4:16)

### A Contrast of Characteristics

- Selfish/Selfless
- Self-indulgent/Sacrificial
- Unreliable/Trustworthy
- Demanding/Understanding
- Capricious/Dependable
- The Moment/Visionary
- Easily Distracted/Focused
- Me/Team
- Pleasure Centered/Values Centered
- Undisciplined/Disciplined
- Aggravating/Comforting
- Shallow/Insightful
- Unfulfilled/Fulfilled

### The Privilege of Maturity

- Guilt will work for a while, but not well (I Sam. 24:16-18; 26:1-3)
- Fear will work for a while, but not well (Ex. 15:31; 17:1-3)
- Love, resulting from Grace, keeps on working, and with distinction (II Cor. 5:14-15; Jn. 14:15)
- Mature service is a privilege (Phil. 3:7-16)!