

Raising the Bar – PT III
Matt 5:20 (NIV)
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Matthew 5:48 (NIV) Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

God expects us to mature. We are move from glory to glory, knowledge to knowledge, strength to strength, love to love... God expects us to live to a higher standard. What are your standards? Matt 5:17-20 tells that our righteousness should rise above the religious people of our times. Therefore, let's raise the bar and be God's best example to others.

We are going to raise the level of our living this year. Ephesians 4 tells us how we should live according to God's plan and purpose.

Eph 4:11-32 (NIV, AMP, MSG), Phil 4:12-14 (CEB)

1. Walk with God – As a humble and loving servants

2. Walk with God expecting you to mature – Eph 4:11-16 (AMP)

***MSG** – “He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ’s followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ’s body, the church, until we’re all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God’s Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.*

- a. Maturity has to do with development
- b. Maturity develops differently
- c. We don't get to choose how others develop, God does

3. Walk with God so that the world notices the difference as children of God – Eph 4:17-32 (AMP)

- a. Walk as children of light
- b. Walk so others notice the different
- c. Walk with a renewed mind
- d. Speak to build up everyone – saved and unsaved
- e. Be kind and helpful