

The Goal of Ministry I: To a Mature Man (Ephesians 4:12-13)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Illustration: The maturation of the Human Brain
 - B. Review of the context
 - C. Main point: **What are the *invisible* goals attained by a mature church?**
 - D. Outline of the sermon

- II. **How are the saints *equipped* unto maturation?**
 - A. As each member discovers and employs his or her gift
 - B. Leadership must encourage every member ministry
 1. not be consumed with their own reputation or titles
 2. a call to Bread of Life Fellowship in the coming year
 - C. How is the church edified?
 1. The Word of God (Acts 20:32, Col 1:28-29)
 2. To rely on anything else is ridiculous
 3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 4. The Word of God is to be used in the public assembly as well as by every member in private exhortation
 - D. As we mature under the Word of God, we come to a common understanding of the faith

- III. **The three invisible goals attained by a mature church? (Eph 4:13)**
 - A. *Until*
 1. How long will the work of the ministry continue?
 2. Is the church already mature?
 - a. The *already* and *not yet*
 - B. *Unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God*
 1. *Faith* and *knowledge* in the *already* and *not yet*
 - C. *To a mature man*
 1. the heart-break of babies who never mature
 2. the frustration of pastors who do not equip their flock
 - D. *To the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ*

- IV. **Application: How do we practically attain these goals?**
 - A. The Word of God
 1. family devotions
 2. Bible studies
 3. Fellowship with brethren centered on God's Word
 - B. The People of God
 1. 1 Corinthians 1:10
 2. Galatians 6:1
 3. 2 Corinthians 13:11
 4. 1 Thessalonians 3:10