

## WHAT GOD WANTS FROM EVERY PERSON

This is a very simple, yet profound sermon. You're probably not going to hear anything you don't already know; but hopefully you will gain a perspective that you not have.

The title of this sermon is *What God Wants from Every Person*. Yes, you heard it right: "every person." This sermon is for everybody: here & not here. I am quite aware that most people will never be what God wants. They have their own plans for their lives, & will never submit themselves to the plan God has for them; but within the next 35 minutes you will know what God wants for you. We will (1) first look at 3 things God wants from every person. We will then (2) put a face on what it means to become a mature Christian.

ALL sermons should come from the Bible, & this one does. You should be aware that the text I am about to read is addressed to saved people, but it also reflects God's plan for those who are not saved. Hear it for yourself; the text is \*Rom. 12:1-2.

**I. 1<sup>st</sup> THE 3 THINGS GOD WANTS FROM EVERY PERSON.** The 3 things God wants from every person are stated in writing in \*Mat. 28:19-20.

### A. 1<sup>st</sup> God wants every person to be saved.

1. No doubt about it. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* 2 Pet. 3:9.
2. Because of sin people who are not saved will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. God doesn't want that to happen to anyone. That fact is made unmistakably clear in \*John 3:16-17. *"The Son of man is come to seek & to save that which was lost."* Luke 19:10.
3. Not every person is saved or ever will be, but God wants all of them to be saved. Listen to Him: *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, & I will give you rest."* Mat. 11:28. *"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."* Rev. 22:17.
4. The 1<sup>st</sup> thing in God's plan for you is that you get saved, become a real Christian. *I will slow down & tell you what that means.*

### B. 2<sup>nd</sup> God wants every person to be baptized.

1. Water baptism is God's way of you identifying publicly with Him.
  - a) Baptism is a public picture (pantomime) of the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rom. 6:4
  - b) By your baptism you say the gospel is your only hope.
2. Baptism can't happen before you're & still be valid. Acts 8:36-37
3. Baptism must be by immersion for the picture to be right. Acts 8:38-39
4. Baptism must be administered by a church doctrinally connected to the church which Jesus gave authority to baptize. Mat. 28:19
5. Baptism will add the new believer to the church which administers the baptism. \*Acts 2:41, 47

### C. 3<sup>rd</sup> God wants every person to grow up to maturity.

1. You see it right there in \*Mat. 28:20. The teaching that is to be done in the church should bring about growth to maturity.
2. It's the parent-child parallel. The right path for every child is growth to maturity. Mature to the point of doing it yourself. It is never God's plan that the growth of a new believer stop short of maturity.
3. That's what discipleship & mentoring are about.

God's plan for every person is pretty straightforward & clear-cut: Get saved, be baptized & then grow up to become a mature Christian.

**II. NOW THE FACE ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME A MATURE CHRISTIAN.**

### A. It means membership in one of the Lord's churches.

1. Jesus personally established the church as custodian of His spiritual work until His return. *Mt. 16:18. \*Eph. 3:21. \*1 Tim. 3:15.*
2. Maturity means covenant relationship; becoming a part of a church. Not merely attending or helping; but joining, membership.
3. Every church in the Bible was made up of members, people in covenant relationship & a part of the body. At least 12 times the word "members" is used to identify people who were in churches.
4. It is impossible to be a mature Christian or what God wants from you apart from membership.

#### **B. Maturity means becoming functional in one of the Lord's churches.**

1. Involved, serving, giving of yourself to the welfare of the church.
2. That means seeing yourself as one part necessary to a body much bigger than you, & contributing your part to it. *\*Eph. 4:14-16*
3. I encourage you to read *\*1 Cor. 12*, especially *vss. 14-24*. The passage likens church members to body members.
4. God wants from you deepen engagement in the life of one of His churches; in **both** (1) **worship** & (2) **service**.

#### **C. Maturity means becoming a practicing Christian.**

1. Yes, practicing what you preach; behaving like a Christian. *"So speak ye, & so do," Jam. 2:12.*
2. Your life actually manifests true godly, holy living. In you people see integrity, good character, values & attitudes that reflect the spirit of Christ. Christianity becomes your lifestyle, way of living; not just an occasional Christian act. *"As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation," 1 Pet. 1:15.*

#### **D. Maturity means passing Christianity on to others.**

1. Reproduction, people having children is an unquestionable mark of maturity. God said, *"Be fruitful & multiply," Gen. 1:21.*
2. God wants every person to reproduce both physically & spiritually.
3. Spiritual children, bringing people to Christ as Savior, teaching others the truths of God, helping others to grow up in the Lord.
4. It's everywhere in the Bible. Perhaps *\*2 Tim. 2:2* says it best.

I remind you that this message is about **"What God Wants from Every Person."**

Yes, **every person**. That means you. God wants you (1) to be saved, (2) to be baptized & (3) to grow up to maturity. You have just seen the face of Christian Maturity. It is (1) membership in one of His churches & (2) functional participation in that church, (3) living a godly Christian lifestyle & (4) reproducing yourself in the lives of others.

Everything God wants for every person is good, edifying & uplifting. Everything He wants gives meaning & purpose to life. Nothing He wants is unreasonable, evil or hard. God expressed His sentiments quite well in the first 3 verses of his hymnal. *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper," Psalm 1:1-3.*

Are you doing what God wants from every person? Jesus said, *"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them," John 13:17.* Doing these simple things is what Paul called, *"doing the will of God from the heart," Eph. 6:6.* Friends, this is where fulfillment is life really is. I challenge every person hearing these words to do what God wants from you: (1) trust Him as your Savior & be saved. (2) Identify with Him in baptism & become a part of one of His churches. (3) Grow up & become a mature Christian. That means (1) membership in a church, (2) active function in your church, (3) a godly lifestyle & (4) reproduction of yourself in others.