Four Marks of Mature Christians
1 Cor. 14:20

Introduction:
A. Babes in Christ are expected to mature (1 Pet. 2:2).
   1. Corinthians remained babes. (1 Cor. 3:1-3).
   2. Hebrews became babes. (Heb. 5:12-14).
B. Mature in Christ have certain marks that distinguishes them from babes.

Discussion:
II. Understanding (1 Cor. 14:20).
   A. Understand more than just the first principles. (Heb. 5:12-6:1).
      1. Must understand these to become Christians.
      2. Have not used them enough to retain them. (v. 14).
   B. Understand enough to know they do not know it all. (Phil. 3:12-16).

III. Discernment (Heb. 5:14).
   A. "Have their senses exercised".
      1. Can sense a little leaven before leavens whole lump. (cf. 1 Cor. 5:8; Jas. 1:14-16).
      2. Can sense a threat while it is still just a threat. (cf. Gal. 2:4-5).
   B. "Discern both good and evil".
      1. Can discern between appearance and reality. (Gal. 2:5; Mt. 7:15; 2 Pet. 2:18).
      2. Can discern between differences among brethren.
         a. Some cannot be tolerated. (1 Tim. 6:3-5; Gal. 2:5,14ff).
         b. Some must be tolerated. (Romans 14).
         c. Some can be worked around without an immediate solution. (Acts 15:36-41).
      3. Can discern between erring brethren. (1 Thess. 5:14; Jude 22,23; cf. Gal. 6:1; Tit. 1:13).

IV. Spirituality (1 Cor. 3:1-4)
   A. Mature enough to know the meaning of real spirituality.
      1. Not measured by pious look, soft voice, or "spiritual" talk.
      2. But by following the Spirit's words. (1 Cor. 2:12,13;14:37 Col 3:16; Eph. 5:18,19).
   B. Mature enough to produce fruit of Spirit rather than works of flesh. (1 Cor. 3:3; Gal. 5:19ff).
   C. Mature enough to use spiritual rather than carnal weapons. (2 Cor. 10:1-5).
   D. Mature enough to value spiritual interests over fleshly. (2 Cor. 4:17ff).

V. Stability (Eph. 4:14-15).
   A. Change only for good scriptural reason - not for emotional whim or peer acceptance.
   C. Are stable in all their ways. (Jas. 1:8)
   D. Are rational or reasonable (2 Thess. 3:2).

Conclusion:
A. Where are you spiritually?
   1. A babe and content to stay there?
   2. One who has gone into "second childhood"?
   3. One who is mature and still growing?
B. Are you becoming weaker or stronger in these four marks of maturity?