

GROWING UP IN GOD'S FAMILY

Reasons We Resist Becoming Mature

Hebrews 2:1–3; 3:12–13; 4:1–2; 5:11–14



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Tough though it may be to admit it, most of us resist growing up. We say all the things that suggest otherwise, but in reality, we resist launching out into the ocean of adulthood. We much prefer the security of the shoreline — being able to touch bottom, not having to hassle with the swells, currents, and windstorms of the vast sea with all its demands. Give us the safety of the harbor any day! But God would have us brave the elements, to risk, to become models of maturity . . . to grow up. It seems only logical that we spend a little while analyzing why there is such a strong resistance within us to move on into the responsibilities and challenges of adulthood.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. A Time for Honest Confession

- Regarding ourselves: we are creatures of habit.
- Regarding our Lord: we want a Savior more than a Master.
- Regarding our growth: we tend to stop short of our full potential.

2. A Letter with Relevant Information

We resist pressing on to maturity because . . .

. . . we drift away from what we have heard. (Hebrews 2)

. . . we fall away from the truth altogether. (Hebrews 3)

. . . we fail to mix faith with truth. (Hebrews 4)

. . . we become dull of hearing. (Hebrews 5)



Quotable

*When we want a
Savior more than
a Master, we
stop short of our
potential.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 1985 and Message Mate copyright © 2016 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM12

GROWING UP IN GOD'S FAMILY

Reasons We Resist Becoming Mature

Hebrews 2:1–3; 3:12–13; 4:1–2; 5:11–14



A CLOSER LOOK

Persecution: Its Nature and Effects

Loving parents want their kids to understand that discipline and love aren't mutually exclusive ideas — that forms of correction are not vents for parental anger, outbursts of frustration, or clubs wielded to abuse authority (and children). Instead, parents want their kids to understand that real love *requires* discipline.

So why do we have such a hard time receiving discipline from our heavenly Father? Our goal is all too often comfort — freedom from pain, financial security, heaven on earth.

How different from God's perspective. His goal is to conform us to His image, to make us holy (Hebrews 12:4–11). In fact, He assures us that never experiencing His discipline is a reason to wonder if we really belong to Him (12:8).

Do you need encouragement that God loves you? Don't just look at the comforts He provides. Consider the discomfort He allows in your life as well. They are tools of correction in the hands of your loving Father.

Sure, it hurts. But metal bends better when softened with fire. Marble takes shape only under the splintering blow of a chisel. And whoever heard of smoothing wood without the abrasive scrape of sandpaper?

A loving God using pain to produce good in His children may sound harsh, until you consider that the most loving thing He ever did was also the most painful — putting His only Son on the cross.

Let us welcome and endure His discipline, for it “yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness” (12:11).



LET'S LIVE IT

Stay teachable. God will use every circumstance to help you mature if you lean forward and listen for His voice. What could He be teaching you in your marriage? Your circumstances? Your business? Your grief?

Listen. Listen with your heart and your hands; and along with God's truth found in Scripture, mix in faith.



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 1985 and Message Mate copyright © 2016 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM12

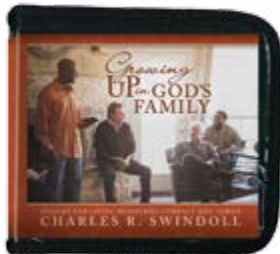
GROWING UP IN GOD'S FAMILY

Reasons We Resist Becoming Mature

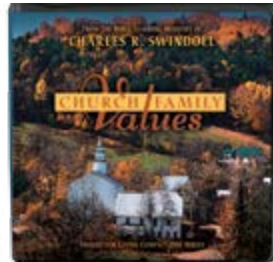
Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:12-13; 4:1-2; 5:11-14



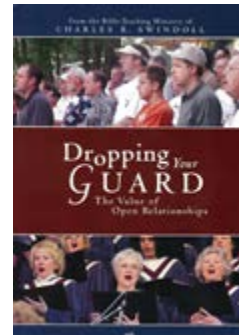
Tools for Digging Deeper



**Growing Up in
God's Family**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



Church Family Values
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



**Dropping Your Guard:
The Value of Open
Relationships**
by Charles R. Swindoll
softcover book

For these and related resources, visit www.insightworld.org/store
or call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK +44 1306 640156



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Original outline copyright © 1985 and Message Mate copyright © 2016 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

MM12