

DIGDEEPER

January 31, 2016

The Destination of the Church by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ephesians 4:13 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

The church has a goal and an objective. As the people of God, we are headed toward Christlikeness because of our firm faith *in* Jesus and our increasing knowledge *of* Jesus. This is not a journey we undertake on our own. Looking more like Jesus must happen in community. The church practices Christlikeness in a coordinated way until the day she is made to look like him in every way.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

What does it mean for someone to be mature?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- In what ways do you look more like Jesus now than you did this time last year? What about five years ago?
- How is your looking more like Jesus (maturity) having an impact on your church?
- How can we have “the knowledge of the Son of God?” A few answers will probably come to mind, but spend time thinking about the primary way we come to know Jesus.
- Richard said, “There is no ‘the way I see it’ in the Christian life.” Rather, our opinions and convictions must be subordinated to what God says. When is the last time your opinions, beliefs, or convictions changed as a result of seeing God’s truth in Scripture?

GO DEEPER

- As a church, we must consistently be about the pursuit of the knowledge together. Afshin Ziafat helps us see how this pursuit is [directly related to the person of Jesus Christ](#).
- J. Oswald Sanders clarifies what Paul likely has in mind when he writes about “mature manhood.” Take a look at [what maturity is and isn’t](#) as well as whether we can ever have it here on earth.
- So far, everything we’ve looked at in Ephesians 4 speaks directly to the purpose and character of the local church. Jenny Manley briefly summarizes [a few reasons why the church is necessary](#) and what role it plays in helping us look more like Jesus.
- Finally, Paul David Tripp takes a few minutes to point out [a very important idea when we talk about maturity and knowledge](#). While the clip is part of a longer interview about a book he wrote for ministers, the content is helpful for us all.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

If you haven’t already, take a moment to watch the Tripp video above. Spend time this week considering something you know to be true about the life and character of Jesus that is not currently present in your everyday life. Ask God to help you apply what you already know. Then, talk with fellow church members about the way in which you need to grow.