

## STAGES OF MATURITY

- \* Today -- I have the opportunity to give a presentation
  - \* How This Topic Was Chosen -- Some of my friends requested that I give a version of a presentation that I have given through the years
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- \* 2 Foundational Scriptures
- \* The subject of this presentation falls under the category of the "second commandment" mentioned by the Son of God

Mark 12:29-30            this is the 1st commandment -- loving God with  
                                 all your heart, with all your soul, with  
                                 all your mind and with all your strength

31            this is the 2nd commandment -- you shall love your  
                                 neighbor as yourself

1 Cor. 13:11            When I was a child; I spoke as a child, I  
understood as a child, I thought as a child -- But when I became a  
man, I put away childish things

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### 3 Stages of Maturity

1.    Dependence
  2.    Independence
  3.    Interdependence
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### MATURING AS A PERSON

1. How **dependent** is a newborn baby upon his parents or guardians?
2. How **dependent** is an infant upon his parents or guardians?
3. How do the following experiences in a child's life affect his growing **independence**?
  - a.    crawling
  - b.    walking
  - c.    talking
  - d.    going to school
4. How do the following experiences in a teenager's life affect his growing **independence**?
  - a.    entering into junior high school
  - b.    acquiring a permit/license to drive the car
  - c.    receiving permission to date
  - d.    finding a job

e. going to college

5. How do the following experiences in a young adult's life affect his growing **independence**?

- a. buying a car
- b. graduating from college
- c. working full-time
- d. getting married

6. How do the following experiences in a young adult's life affect his growing from **independence** to **interdependence**?

- a. working full-time
- b. getting married
- c. having a child
- d. visiting mom and dad
- e. mom & dad watching the children
- f. children -- asking mom and dad for advice
- g. mom and dad -- asking children for advice
- h. children & grandchildren helping parents and grandparents about technology
- i. children & grandchildren setting up technology on modern items
- j. children & grandchildren fixing broken items of technology on modern items

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In "The 7 Habits...." (pages 49-51), Stephen Covey writes:

\* About Being Dependent

\* "If I were physically dependent -- paralyzed or disabled or limited in some physical way -- I would need you to help me."

\* "If I were emotionally dependent, my sense of worth and security would come from your opinion of me. If you don't like me, it could be devastating."

\* "If I were intellectually dependent, I would count on you to do my thinking for me, to think through the issues and problems of life."

\* About Being Independent

\* "If I were independent, physically, I could pretty well make it on my own."

\* "Mentally, I could think my own thoughts, I could move from one level of abstraction to another. I could think creatively and analytically and organize and express my thoughts in understandable ways."

\* "Emotionally, I would be validated from within. I would be inner

directed. My sense of worth would not be a function of being liked or treated well."

\* "True independence of character empowers us to act rather than to be acted upon. It frees us from our dependence on circumstances and other people and is a worthy, liberating goal."

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"you" take care of me	"I" can do it
"you" came through for me	"I" am responsible
"you" did not come through for me	"I" am self-reliant
I blame "you" for the results	"I" can choose

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\* About Being Interdependent

\* "Interdependence is a far more mature, more advanced concept."

\* "If I am physically interdependent, I am self-reliant and capable, but I also realize that you and I working together can accomplish far more than, even at my best, I could accomplish alone."

\* "If I am emotionally interdependent, I derive a great sense of worth within myself, but I also recognize the need for love, for giving, and for receiving love from others."

\* "If I am intellectually interdependent, I realize that I need the best thinking of other people to join with my own...."

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"we" can do it
"we" can cooperate
"we" can combine our talents and abilities
"we" can create something greater together

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\* "Interdependence is a choice only independent people can make. Dependent people cannot choose to become interdependent. They don't have the character to do it; they don't own enough of themselves."

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1. Examples of Religious Dependence

\* Addicted to Church Leaders

Rev. 12:4	dragon's tail drew 1/3 of the angels to the earth
-- the fallen angels followed God's representative instead of following God	
1 Cor. 1:10-13	polarizing around people

1 Cor. 3:1-4	polarizing around people
5-8	people plant & water -- God gives increase
Matt. 20:25	lord it over them -- great authority over them
Matt. 23:4	binding heavy burdens on others
5	works to be seen of men
6	loving the best rooms and the best seats
7-8	loving titles
13	hindering the Kingdom of heaven
14	appearing to be holy, while hurting widows
15	working hard for converts -- mistreating them
Mark 9:38	denouncing people not "with" them
2 Cor. 11:13	following deceitful workers
20	some put up with the following behavior
	* brings you into bondage
	* devours you
	* takes from you
	* exalts himself
	* strikes you on the face
2 Tim. 3:13	being seduced by deceivers
2 Pet. 2:1-3	following false teachers -- merchandize people
Rev. 2:15	doctrine of Nicolaitians
20	allow Jezebel to teach and seduce
	 * Addicted to Praise
Matt. 6:1-4	giving to be seen of men
5-7	praying to be seen of men -- will be heard for their many words
16-18	fasting to be seen of men
John 12:43	loving the praise of men more than of God
	 * Addicted to Worthiness (Acceptance)
Matt. 25:24-30	afraid and inactive
Luke 18:9-14	self-righteous comparisons
	 * Addicted to Religious Appearance
Matt. 23:25-28	making the outside look good
2 Tim. 3:5	form of godliness

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## 2. Examples of Religious Independence

### \* The Son of God foretold of His path

Matt. 16:21	He told His disciples of future events
22	Peter rebuked Him
23	He corrected Peter
Matt. 26:31-32	He told His disciples that they would scatter
33	Peter proclaimed that he would not scatter
34	He told Peter that Peter would deny Him 3 times

35	Peter and all the disciples said they would not deny Him
69-75	Peter denied Him 3 times
Matt. 27:46	"....why have You forsaken Me?"
* Other examples of Independence	
Matt. 16:24	deny self -- take up cross -- follow Christ
Acts 7:51-60	Stephen spoke out against sin
Rom. 14:10-12	giving account of own self
1 Cor. 10:12	thinks he stands -- take heed lest he fall
2 Cor. 5:10	appear before the judgment seat of Christ
2 Cor. 6:17	coming out and being separate
Phil. 2:12	work out own salvation
15	lights -- in the midst of crooked & perverse
2 Thes. 2:3	let no man deceive you by any means
1 Tim. 6:3-5	withdraw from false doctrine and teachers who seek to fleece the flock
2 John 10	not receive them into your home
Rev. 2:2	tested those who say they are apostles (but are not) -- and have found them to be liars
Rev. 2:10	faithful until death
Rev. 3:9	not worship the synagogue of Satan
11	let no man take your crown

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3. Examples of Religious Interdependence

\* Transition from Independence to Interdependence

\* Independent and Interdependent

Gal. 2:6 Paul independent -- willing for interdependence

\* Those who seemed to be something

\* Whatever they were, it makes no difference to me

\* God shows personal favoritism to no man

\* Those who seemed to be something added nothing to me (about his mission)

\* Right Hand of Fellowship

Gal. 2:7-8 gospel for uncircumcised committed to Paul, as gospel for circumcised given to Peter

9 James, Peter and John (seemed to be pillars) -- recognized God working with Paul and Barnabas -- they gave Paul and Barnabas the "right hand of fellowship"

10 all should remember the poor

\* The Example of the Son of God

Matt. 20:25-28	service leadership
Matt. 25:34-40	showing love to the "least"
John 10:1-10	Door of the Sheep
11-18	the Good Shepherd
Eph. 5:25-27	gave Himself for the Church
1 Pet. 2:21-23	gave us an example

\* Two OT Instructions Involving Interdependence

Gen. 2:24	marriage -- one flesh
Eccles. 4:9-11	two are better than one
12	a threefold cord is not quickly broken

\* NT Instructions Involving Interdependence

Matt. 5:44	praying for enemies
Matt. 6:14-15	forgiving men their trespasses
Luke 10:29-37	having compassion on your "neighbor"
John 15:13	lay down his life for his friends
Rom. 12:13	serving needs -- given to hospitality
Rom. 14:1	receiving someone who is weak
19	pursue peace & edification
Rom. 15:1	bearing the infirmities of the weak
1 Cor. 11:1	follow teachers as they follow Christ
1 Cor. 12:12	the body is many members
13	united by the Spirit
21	not denouncing parts of the body
26	suffering and rejoicing together
Gal. 6:1	helping someone with a fault
Eph. 6:18-19	praying for all saints and for teachers
Phil. 4:3	helping fellowlaborers
Heb. 10:24	provoke unto love and good works
25	assembling together
1 John 3:11-16	love one another
1 John 4:8-11	love one another

\* Gifts of Interdependence

Rom. 12:6-8	7 gifts
	* Prophecy
	* Ministry (Serving)
	* Teaching
	* Exhortation
	* Giving
	* Leading
	* Showing Mercy

\* Some Specific Examples of Interdependence

Acts 4:34-37	sold land & houses -- to share
Acts 11:27-30	Antioch disciples -- relief to Judea brethren
Acts 15:1-21	gathering of apostles & elders -- circumcision
Acts 16:40	gathering at Lydia's house
Rom. 15:25-27	Gentile disciples -- contributions to Jerusalem

Rom. 16:1-2	Phoebe
3-5	Priscilla and Aquila
6-15	many other people
1 Cor. 16:15-16	household of Stephanas
Phil. 2:19-24	Timothy's good example
25-30	Epaphroditus
2 Tim. 1:16-18	Onesiphorus