**Slide 1:**

# RBC NASHVILLE

love God
build the Church
reach the World

**Slide 2:**

## Ephesians 4:11-16

**Slide 3:**

**Build the Church**

- By *making* and *maturing* disciples of Christ
- By equipping and serving the body of Christ

**Slide 4:**

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

(Colossians 1:28-29)

# Two metaphors for maturity:
## Anthropological & Agricultural

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## Marks of Human Development to Maturity

- Strength
- Knowledge
- Wisdom
- Stability
- Courage
- Love
- From dependence to service

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## Ephesians 4:13-16

- Growing in...exercising ministry and gifts to others
- ...unity of faith
- ....relationship with Jesus
- ...becoming more like Jesus
- ...away from child-likeness
- ...stable and not easily moved
- ...truth spoken in love
- ...mutual upbuilding through proper working

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## Philippians 3:12-15

- Leaving the past behind so that it isn't a hindrance
- Pressing forward to new things and opportunities
- Understanding and living by our purpose in Christ Jesus

## Hebrews 5:11-14

- Dulled hearing of the Word
- Lack of usefulness to others because of immaturity
- Retarded growth
- Need to be taught over and over again basic principles
- Lack of skill in the Word
- Contrasted to someone who is growing in discernment by constant practice (i.e. action) in response in distinguishing good and evil)

## Application

- Maturing includes:
- **knowledge** of truth of God's Word
- **relationship** with God through Jesus Christ
- transformation of behavior marked **by** *love* to God and others

- Where there is growth in knowledge, there should be growth in transformation

- To switch metaphors, the maturing of the fruit of the Spirit in the lives of disciples is the clearest indication of spiritual maturation

## Question for next time

- What are some specific ways to identify and measure where we are in maturity as disciples? (individually and as a church)

- Upon identification, what are some ways to press into ongoing maturity or get unstuck from where we are?

- First things first…