



Shepherd Care®

To Care for People Where They Live and Work

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COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

Developmental Maturity

Have you ever noticed grown adults making lifestyle choices that are childish? I do not mean playful events where people do sport outings or other events with youthful enthusiasm. I am referring to immaturity.

Raising Children

Parents have the responsibility to raise their children to be responsible adults, so they make positive contributions to society.

- Parents are to nurture and encourage.
- Parents have a responsibility to discipline and instruct.

Stalled Development

Unfortunately, even in the best homes and upbringing, children can make their own willful choices to “do their own thing.” Whenever a detour is made from a positive direction, responsibility is abandoned, and the process of developmental maturity is stalled.

When this happens natural physical maturity and growth still takes place, but inward emotional maturity becomes stagnant. I have seen some

children with more maturity than some older adults. This stalled development becomes a vicious circle that begets more poor choices.

How to Get Back on Track

When conscious mature decisions are made to get back on track and go back “on the straight and narrow” path, then the process of maturity begins again. Just like learning to walk, the first attempts may be fumbling, but the important thing to remember is to keep moving forward.

- Take responsibility for our actions.
- Character Counts! Do the right thing, especially when nobody is looking.

Responsibility means taking positive steps to be dependable and mature. It is never too late to do the right thing!

Introducing your
Community Chaplain
Eric Kieselbach
(pronounced “key-sill-
baa”)
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“The popular notion is that maturity comes with age. You get old with age. Maturity comes with acceptance of responsibility. In every area of life. Some (people) are mature at seventeen. Others are immature at seventy.”
Edwin Louis Cole

“Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me (*wisdom*) will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”
Proverbs 1:30-33

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