

**May 15th, The Potter and the Clay**  
**Part 2 in the series 'Growing Pains'**

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

How would you define maturity? How would you define immaturity?

It is natural for children to be immature, but many adults remain immature for years or even their whole life. What are some signs of immaturity, whether in a child or an adult?

Jim said it is common for people to defend their immaturity. What are some of the ways people defend their own immature actions and attitudes?

Jesus said "You must be perfect - just as your Father in heaven is perfect." What characteristics would you expect to see in someone who is being perfected in Christ?

Finish this phrase: "God loves us just the way we are..." (But He loves us too much to leave us that way.)

Some people assume God's work in our lives starts once we get to heaven. That idea was compared to being in preschool, then skipping everything else until you graduate with a PhD. What do you think of that idea?

"God is making you into that which you will be forever." We have the choice to cooperate with God's process or to disrupt it. What are some ways we can cooperate with God?

What are some ways we can hinder God's process of perfecting us?

The key truth from the message is that the time we have been given on this earth, in this season, is a tremendous gift. Why do you think that is?

Eternity is where you will forever either celebrate or lament the choice you made.

### **Read 2 Timothy 2:19-21**

“God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.” **20** In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. **21** Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”

What does this passage tell us about God’s will for us? What is our role in God’s plan for our lives?

Jim (and James, the brother of Jesus) said that the difficulties in our lives are being used by God to help us mature. Our response to difficulty is what matters.

What are some responses to difficulty that help us mature?

What are some areas where you think God wants to make you more mature?