

A Plan For Maturing Members At Calvary Chapel
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ABSTRACT

Calvary Chapel desires to produce spiritually mature congregants who are continually spiritually transformed and who model the virtues of the fruit of the Spirit. The purpose of this project was to develop and teach a course on spiritual transformation and the fruit of the Spirit that would assist the congregants of Calvary Chapel in growing to spiritual maturity. The course was developed to challenge its attendees to accurately evaluate the virtues of the Spirit in their lives and develop a plan for improvement in weak areas.

A spiritual maturity course (“Changing Your Life: Becoming the Person God Wants You to Be”) composed of ten class sessions for adult small groups was created. The course was taught at Calvary Chapel in Buffalo, Missouri, September 8, 2002, through November 17, 2002. The course was composed of the following ten sessions: (1) Lordship of Christ; (2) Spiritual Transformation/Change; (3) The Sinful Nature; (4) Love; (5) Joy; (6) Peace; (7) Patience; (8) Kindness and Goodness; (9) Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control; and (10) Being Fruitful.

In order to show progress or knowledge gained from the course, a pretest and posttest criterion reference assessment on Christian virtues was given. The *Christian Life Profile* (CLP), developed by Randy Frazee, was selected as this assessment tool. Comparisons of the pretest/posttest revealed a significant growth in understanding of the course materials presented.

The evaluative factors showed that the project was effective in helping the participants grow in spiritual maturity. Specifically, the participants not only were given instruction and encouragement to change, but from self-evaluation the participants are seeing progress in their lives. Participants showed significant gain in experiencing the virtues of the fruit of the Spirit by participating in the course.