

REBUKE FOR SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY
(Hebrews 5:11-14)

- I. The CHALLENGE (Heb. 5:11)
 - A. CHRIST is the PREEMINENT high priest (see 4:14 – 5:10)
 - 1. He’s BETTER QUALIFIED than Aaron (4:14 – 5:4)
 - 2. He’s IDENTICAL to Melchizedek (5:5-10)
 - B. MUCH remains to be SAID about MELCHIZEDEK (see 7:1-28)
 - C. It is HARD to EXPLAIN
 - 1. Not because the MATERIAL is INSCRUTABLE
 - 2. Not because the TEACHER is INCAPABLE
 - 3. But because the STUDENTS are INSENSITIVE

- II. Their CONDITION (Heb. 5:12)
 - A. They OUGHT to be TEACHERS by NOW (cf. Rom. 15:14)
 - 1. They’ve been PROFESSING believers for SOME TIME
 - 2. TRUE faith is manifested in GROWING UNDERSTANDING
 - B. But they needed SOMEONE ELSE to re-teach THEM
 - 1. They need to become COMPETENT in the PRINCIPLES of God’s Word

2. They would need to REVIEW the very BASICS
 - a. Metaphorically RESTRICTED to MILK
 - b. Metaphorically unable to TOLERATE SOLID FOOD

III. The CONTRAST (Heb. 5:13-14)

- A. Their LIVES demonstrate spiritual INFANCY
 1. Their IMMATURITY raises DOUBT of their SINCERITY
 2. There is no EVIDENCE of spiritual TRANSFORMATION
- B. Genuine Christians will INCREASE in spiritual MATURITY (cf. Eph. 4:11-16)
 1. In the PRACTICE of their faith, they develop SKILL through EXPERIENCE
 2. They WORK AT their faith to IMPROVE their DISCERNMENT
 - a. To RECOGNIZE and EMBRACE what is GOOD
 - b. To IDENTIFY and REJECT what is EVIL