

10 Observations of a Maturing Believer

1. If you are in chaos, you need order. If you are orderly, you need to go on to maturity. You can go from chaos to order and from order to maturity, but you cannot go from chaos to maturity. You must first develop some kind of order. The Mosaic Law and Proverbs are examples of order.
2. The way to establish order is very different than the way to establish maturity. Order comes through discipline. Maturity comes through creativity. Creativity should never be applied to chaos.
3. Left to themselves, all areas of our life will tend to move toward chaos. Order and maturity require effort.
4. The down side to order is that it tends to see itself as an end in itself. The state of orderliness will usually settle into systems and organizations that oppose maturity just as much as they oppose chaos. Order must be creatively overcome in order to become mature. Just as chaos will tend to hold you down into itself, so will order.
5. Generally speaking, we move from chaos to order by joining some group, which gives us fellowship, accountability, and structure. The Mosaic Law and Proverbs were for the nation of Israel living in the Land. But we move from order to maturity individually. No national law keeping could write the Psalms, teach the Sermon on the Mount, or go on missionary journeys.
6. Order is boring. If growth is only defined in terms of order, there will be little motivation for it.
7. We are all in different places in different areas of our lives. Some of what we think or do is chaotic, some orderly, and (hopefully, but not necessarily) some aspects of our lives are mature.
8. A mature person is not someone who is mature in all or even most areas of his or her life. A mature person is mature in the most important areas of life, which always includes his or her relationship with God and area of calling. [I'm defining "calling" with five elements: spiritual gifts, natural talents, societal role (in family, work, community, etc.), life situation (concerning health, national origin, race, age, etc.), and desires (what you like to do).]
9. The areas where we are not called, or where we easily tend toward chaos, should receive only enough attention to get them to order. Then they can be maintained through habits, laws, and traditions. Get it to order and forget it. We should not spend much time outside of our calling.
10. Life is the most rewarding, exciting and motivational in the area of maturity (which can only be developed by creativity applied to order). The reason many people keep bouncing in and out of chaos is because they have no creative area of maturity to motivate them. The best they can then hope for is that life will be some sort of boring order. So they usually end up back in chaos.

For more information see study paper **Characteristics of Maturing Believers** on Relational Concepts web page: <https://relationalconcepts.org/>