

Central has developed what we call the “Maturing Follower Framework.” It’s a list of 12 statements that define some of the core elements of what is included in growing in our love for God, our love for one another in the church family and our love for our neighbours.

This list has come from asking the question, “What does it look like when Jesus lives in and through a person?” While it is certainly not comprehensive or complete, we believe it is useful as starting place to ask ourselves, “What kind of fruit is God producing in my life?”

As well, it can be used as a tool for developing practices and habits to grow in our relationships with God, and for leaders to create ministries that have the goal of developing maturity. Overall we are convinced that we are mature followers when we are *maturing* followers, continuing to grow in our practical love for God, the church family and our neighbours.



A MATURING FOLLOWER OF JESUS...

...IS GROWING IN WORSHIP. (love for God)

- Humbly loves God and pursues a growing relationship with Jesus through personal worship and prayer.
- Studies and grows in knowing God through scripture and theology.
- Seeks to know God’s will and to submit to him in every aspect of life.
- Authentically and passionately engages with God’s people in worship.

...IS DEEPENING IN COMMUNITY. (love for the church family)

- Genuinely loves God’s people and recognizes the need for humble involvement in church community.
- Exhibits the fruit of the Spirit, living and talking with grace and truth.
- Pursues relational health, reconciliation and unity with a readiness to confess and eagerness to forgive.
- Generously offers spiritual gifts, time and money to build the church and meet practical needs.

...IS MOVING ON MISSION. (love for neighbours)

- Actively loves neighbours and has a personal sense of mission within God’s Kingdom.
- Has open eyes and a ready heart to welcome and include others.
- Sacrificially serves out of a reflection of God’s heart for mercy and justice.
- Can articulate the gospel and share his/her own story of faith effectively.