

A dark, high-contrast photograph of a complex industrial machine, likely a steam engine or a large-scale mechanical system. The image is dominated by large, dark gears and a prominent belt running across the lower right. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures and metallic surfaces of the machinery against a dark background. The overall mood is industrial and somewhat somber.

Growing Out of High Maintenance

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- Gal. 4:11 - "I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain."
- 2Cor. 11:2-4 - "...I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!"
- 3John 9-10 - "I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words..."

Growing Out of High Maintenance

- Difficult people, the ones who fray your nerves and drain your energy, can be found everywhere.
- Rather than focusing on trying to change other people, change your attitude and behavior toward them.
- Love them and prove your love by interacting with them in such a way that will make it harder for them to remain high maintenance.
- Realize that all people are valuable and loveable in God's eyes, even with all their faults, and that He wants you to live at peace with everyone as much as possible.
- Remember the grace God has extended toward you, and try to extend grace to others you encounter.

Growing Out of High Maintenance

- 1Thes. 5:14 - “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”
- Rom. 15:1 - “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”

Growing Out of High Maintenance

- The strong and faithful members must not only do their own work, but are called on to expend extra effort for those who are:
 - Young in the faith, which is as delightful as caring for a growing child.
 - Weakened by trial and suffering hardship -- an empathetic duty they are happy to perform.
 - However, enter the high maintenance Christian whose self-oriented spirit is a burden to everyone but themselves. Such persons demand time and resources from the strong and faithful that would be better spent reaching the lost, teaching growing Christians, and helping the weak and suffering.



Growing Out of High Maintenance

- Common Traits of High Maintenance Christians
(Adapted from an article by Cheryl Conner in Forbes)
 - They are convinced that their needs are the most urgent.
 - They have a sense of entitlement.
 - They appear unable to be self-sufficient.
 - They firmly grasp and frequently repeat stories of personal wrongs done to them in the past.
 - They talk a lot or not at all; both to get attention.
 - They are seldom satisfied and see the flaws in every situation.



Growing Out of High Maintenance

- They are high-strung and live in a state of perpetual drama.
- They handle money poorly, regardless of the economy or their income.
- They place a high importance on material things.
- They are obsessed with details, theirs and yours.
- They seem unsettled, ill at ease, constantly making changes.
- They resent authority and are often critical of it.

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- God created you in His Image.
 - Gen. 1:26-27 - “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
 - You have God’s genes, not the Devil’s DNA.

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- God created you to glorify Him, not embarrass His Son. Jesus showed us how to glorify God.
 - John 14:8-9 - “Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, Show us the Father?’”
 - John 1:18 - “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- Heb. 1:3 - “Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”
- Phil. 2:4-8 - “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- God created you to be useful and trustworthy.
 - Matt. 20:28 - “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - Matt. 25:26 - “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.’”

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- God created you to grow and rise above your earthly nature.
 - 1Peter 2:2 - “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”
 - 1Cor. 14:20 - “Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.”

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- Heb. 5:12-14 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
- Heb. 6:1 - “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection...”

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- God created you to offer to others what He has given to you.
 - Col. 3:13 - “Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”
 - Eph. 4:2, 32 - “With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love... be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”
- Being self-righteous and unforgiving means that you are unrighteous and unforgiven.



Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- God created you to worship Him.
 - John 4:24 - “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
 - Heb. 10:25 - “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”



Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- You must worship Him, not simply try to from time to time if it is convenient, or feel like it, or have the time.
 - Matt. 7:21 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- God created you to be part of a large family and a great fellowship to which you are a contributing member.
 - Phil. 1:3-7 - “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”

Lessons For High Maintenance Christians

- Psalms 37:25-26 - “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lends; and his descendants are blessed.”
- 2Thes. 3:10 - “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”
- Prov. 26:11 - “As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.”

Change For High Maintenance Christians

- No nation was ever higher maintenance or less faithful than Judah.
 - Ez. 2:3-7 - “And He said to me: ‘Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse-for they are a rebellious house-yet they will know that a prophet has been among them. And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.’”

Change For High Maintenance Christians

- Today, the church is the chosen of God.
 - 1Peter 2:9-10 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

Change For High Maintenance Christians

- Rom. 12:2 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
- 2Peter 3:18 - “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”