

Spiritual Maturity On Display

August 28, 2022

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Introduction:

Big Idea: _____ leads you to becoming more like Jesus, that was Paul's desire for the Corinthian believers. **Make it your personal aim to become like Jesus!**

1. A life that is becoming like Jesus will _____ (11-13)

- If you are involved with people in any kind of caring relationship, one thing is for sure, there will be joyful times and there will be times when you will be hurt.
- " _____ " - a term Paul used in a very sarcastic tone to point out his antagonists.

2. A life that is becoming like Jesus will know how _____ (14-18)

- Love pursues the best interest of another at no cost to them.
- "The gospel is this: **We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.**" --Tim Keller

3. A life that is becoming like Jesus will long for _____ (19-21)

- He wasn't building up a wall to defend himself, he was telling them the truth which actually opened himself up to attacks.
- Question that will help us develop the heart of Jesus: Are we speaking, acting, and desiring to truly help and strengthen others by our words and actions or are we hoping to win?

TRUTH INTO ACTION: Desire to mature spiritually!

- Spiritual maturity enables one to step up not back when hurt.
- Spiritually mature believers pursue others best interest over personal wants.
- When your internal voice whispers "**I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls**" be **encouraged, spiritual maturity is coming to your life.**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Tell a story of someone encouraging you through a difficulty.

Discussion Questions

As you seek to be that disciple of Jesus who reproduces disciples of Jesus who love, live and share Jesus, what words best describe you? (circle your answers)

caring	bold	crabby	protective
confrontational	compassionate	passionate	egomaniacal
bossy	consistent	other-centered	awe-inspiring
intrusive	nitpicky	Christlike	worried
impatient	gentle	defensive	paranoid
loving	controlling	overzealous	single-minded

List the people who have been the most influential in your spiritual life and have “built you up” in the faith?

Discuss the thoughts on spiritual maturity shared in the sermon. How would you define spiritual maturity? What do Galatians 5:16,22-23 have to do with spiritual maturity?

Describe your greatest heartache. How has God guided you through that hurt?

Let’s grow in love. Reading through these questions and reflecting how we answered will help us develop the heart of Jesus:

- Are we speaking, acting, and desiring to truly help and strengthen others by our words and actions or
 - Are we hoping to win (prove we are right and they are wrong)?
 - Are we trying to get an advantage? (Are you engaging in a “power move”?)
 - Do we hope to gain something from this relationship? (Are we looking to exploit the relationship for some gain?)
 - Do we desire to prove our spirituality is greater? (arrogance)
- To answer these questions, we must be painfully honest with ourselves. Our goal is to allow the Holy Spirit to make us willing to do whatever we can to help other people to grow. If we want a godly heart we must see others as Jesus does.

In verses 20-21, how did Paul react to sin? What lessons can we learn here about how believers should respond to sin in the church?

Closing Prayer: Father help me and my faith family to grow in spiritual maturity. Please, do a deep heart-level work in me!