

**“The Building Blocks of an Empowered Church”
Colossians 2:1-5**

Review of Last Week’s Message:

The Seven Pillars of a Healthy Relationship to God

- Pillar #1 - Fearing the LORD
- Pillar #2 - Knowing the LORD
- Pillar #3 - Trusting in the LORD
- Pillar #4 - Committing our works to the LORD
- Pillar #5 - Accepting correction from the LORD
- Pillar #6 - Honoring the LORD
- Pillar #7 - Pursuing wisdom from the LORD

The challenge is to be “... a courageous church that goes where others refuse to go and does what others refuse to do.”
(Andy Smith)

“Lord, rescue us from the trivial.” (Andy Smith)

Colossians 2:1-5 “For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf, and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this so that no one may delude you with persuasive argument. For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.”

Colossians 1:28-29 “We proclaim Him (i.e. Christ), admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

Our Discipleship Goals

- Goal #1: To see every family member serving as an effective disciple and minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Goal #2: To see every family member using his/her talents to proclaim Christ to a needy world.
- Goal #3: To see every family member fully mature in Christ.
- Goal #4: To see every family member engaged in agonizing but joy-filled labor for Christ.

I. The Struggle to Build an Empowered Church

Colossians 2:1 “For I want you to know how great a struggle (Greek: agon = agony) I have on your behalf, and for those who are at Laodicea and for all those who have not personally seen my face...”

Equipping people to be strong in the Lord is hard work! Shepherding people to maturity can seem like a fight to the death!

cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 re: Paul’s agonizing struggles

2 Corinthians 11:28 “Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.”

Acts 14:22 “...strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’”

II. The Building Blocks of an Empowered Church (Colossians 2:2-5)

Building Block #1: The people we disciple need to be strengthened in their hearts.

Enemy #1: The Flesh—that inward bent to sin that is the epidemic in every human heart.

Enemy #2: The World—the world’s value system that imposes on us its twisted teachings concerning sex, money and power.

Enemy #3: The Devil—that enemy of our souls — the deceiver, divider and murderer of old

Col. 2:2 “...that their hearts may be encouraged...” (Colossians 2:2)

Proverbs 28:1 “The righteous are as bold as a lion.”

Daniel 11:32 “The people who know their God will display strength and take action.” (Daniel 11:32)

Building Block #2: The people we disciple need to know that they are joined together in love.

Colossians 2:2 “...having been knit together (Greek: *sumbibadzo* = joined, weaved) in love...”

Ecclesiastes 4:12 “The chord of three strands is not easily torn apart.”

Galatians 3:28 “We are all one in Christ”

Building Block #3: The people we disciple need to be secure in their understanding of their wealth in Christ.

Colossians 2:2-3 “...and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

cf. Ephesians 1 and Colossians 3

Building Block #4: The people we disciple need to be taught to stand against the lies.

Colossians 2:4 “I say this in order that no one may delude you with persuasive argument.”

Building Block #5: The people we disciple must learn to be steadfast in their faith.

Colossians 2:5 “For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.”

“good discipline” = Greek: *taxin* = orderliness and discipline -- “stability” = Greek: *stereoma* = standing firm

The Three Marks of a Good Soldier of Jesus Christ: Ready to learn! Ready for battle! Sure-footed in war!

Conclusion: We want people to find us engaged in the agonizing work of discipleship...

“Lord, make us an empowered church family.”

Discussion Questions

1. What are the challenges you face in discipling others?
2. Why is discipling people so “agonizing”?
3. What did you get most out of this message?
4. Honestly evaluate yourself as it relates to being:

	Winning	Struggling	Losing
• strengthened in your heart	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
• joined together in love and unity	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
• secure in your understanding	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
• standing against the lies	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
• steadfast in your faith	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
5. Evaluate one of the people you are discipling:

	Winning	Struggling	Losing
• strengthened in his/her heart	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
• joined together in love and unity	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
• secure in his/her understanding	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
• standing against the lies	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1
• steadfast in his/her faith	10 9 8	7 6 5 4	3 2 1