

Pastor Steve Allen | January 30, 2022  
Colossians 1:27-29 | *For This I Toil*

### ***For This I Toil - Core Value: Next Generation Focused***

Colossians 1:27–29

<sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

<sup>28</sup>Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone **mature in Christ**. <sup>29</sup>**For this I toil**, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

#### **1. What does it mean to be Mature in Christ?**

Romans 8:9–11

<sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Colossians 2:9–10, Galatians 3:26, Romans 8:1, Romans 8:39

#### **2. Why does being mature matter?**

If you are in Christ, your life and your story become enfolded by another story

You don't have to discover or craft, create or achieve, invent or reinvent your own identity. Your identity is found not deep within yourself but outside of yourself.

Your self-understanding becomes inseparable from who God says you are in Christ. Who are you? Your identity is no longer a construct of your own preferences and choices, accomplishments or affiliations. You no longer stand alone. You no longer get the credit or the blame, the applause or the jeers.

Rankin Wilbourne, *Union with Christ: The Way to Know and Enjoy God* (p. 98)

#### **3. How can we toil as a church so all might be Mature?**

Hebrews 5:14, James 1:2-4, 1 John 4:18-19, Philippians 3:12–14

## Praying for The Next Generation

God wants so much for the Next Generation. Nick Hall, in his book *Reset: Jesus Changes Everything* ([pulsemovement.com](http://pulsemovement.com)), suggests eight areas in which the next generation needs prayer.

- **Faith.** For those who have walked away from Jesus, pray for their faith to be restored and strengthened. For those who are following Him, pray for their faith to grow even more.
- **Plans.** The decisions young people make will affect them for the rest of their lives. Pray for God to direct their plans away from evil and toward good.
- **Self-Image.** Many young people struggle with feelings of worthlessness. Pray for the love of God to surround and fill those struggling with self-image.
- **Relationships.** Broken relationships plague this generation. Pray for restoration of relationships with family, friends, and God.
- **Purity.** Pray for a restoration and renewed vision of purity for this generation. Pray for any shame to be removed by the love of Jesus.
- **Habits.** Destructive habits further drive my generation from God. Pray not only for the removal of old habits but for the establishment of new, God-honoring practices.
- **Affections.** At the root of our habits are affections. Pray for God to awaken a deep longing only He can fill in this generation, and pray for Him to satisfy our affections in Jesus.
- **Generation.** Finally, pray this generation will experience awakening and revival from coast to coast. Jesus longs for my generation not only to know Him but to spread His gospel around the world.