

King Over Our Maturity  
Colossians 1:24-2:5  
Sunday, June 7, 2020

Introduction

I need a hobby...

I don't like feeling stupid. Anyone else relate?

I don't like feeling inadequate, or as if I'm not in the know.

I like feeling competent, like an expert, skilled, able.

But here's what's taken me 31 years on this earth to realize: everyone feels this way about most things.

And there are many areas of my life in which I desire to grow, but I don't take the next step because I hate being bad at things.

But the irony is that if we were humble enough to recognize that almost everybody is bad at things when they start them, we would grow.

Hypocrisy is practically a prerequisite to being a member of a church, but we use it as an excuse to not grow.

Pride is <sup>a great sin</sup> ~~perhaps the greatest sin~~ - the default Christian posture should be one of humility. - This comes thru maturity

~~Newer quote?~~ NOWON - upward vs. downward mobility

JESUS IS KING OVER OUR MATURITY - Paul is passionate b/c God is passionate  
b/c maturity means that the gospel is doing  
its growing work in us.

- ① <sup>THE</sup> MESSAGE OF MATURITY
- ② <sup>THE</sup> MODEL OF MATURITY
- ③ <sup>THE</sup> MARKS OF MATURITY

# THE Message of Maturity

Colossians 1:25b-28

“...to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

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. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”

Grasping this is the means of growing up.

Yes, we need books, study, resources, equipping, discipleship, all of it...  
these are the pieces of the car that help it run well, but the car isn't going anywhere without fuel

This message, this mystery hidden for ages, is that fuel.

Paul is saying: you need to get this, grasp it, apply it if you have any hope of being the person God created you to be.



## Christ saves us

The word of God, the gospel, is to be fully known  
It is revealed to all of creation, and all people have the opportunity to respond and receive grace and newness of life. *→ SHARER GOSPEL NOT JUST ONE PEOPLE!*

~~The house is purchased~~

## Christ dwells in us

God doesn't just wave his hand over us, call us saved, and move on  
He cares about us and our lives, making his home in us to love, direct, and guide through the Holy Spirit  
**We grow to listen and walk in step with him in this way.**

~~The house has residents~~

## Christ grows us

Although we are positionally saved through faith in Christ, God is not finished with us.  
For his glory, and get this, FOR OUR GOOD, he desires to grow and mature us  
**The word is meant to warn us and teach us as it is applied in wisdom in order that we may mature.**

~~The house is renovated~~

*Condemned house*

## THE Model of Maturity

Colossians 1:24-25a, 29, 2:1

“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions

for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you...

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me...

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face...”

**Paul is modeling maturity as he teaches about it.**

NOT PRESENT IN YOUR LIFE?

① LOOK TO GODLY EXAMPLES

② MODEL YOURSELF! YOU BE THE EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY!

### Maturity requires holy energy

“...his energy that he powerfully works within me...”

Galatians 2 – No longer I, but Christ who lives in me

Paul frequently talks about this; he leans into the strength of the Lord rather than his own

He recognizes that God lives inside of him and opens himself to this reality.

The mature live in the continual strength of the Lord, the immature live out of the striving of the flesh ,

If you attempt living in your own strength, you are missing maturity.

### Maturity requires humble sacrifice

“...sufferings... toil... struggle...”

Philippians 2 – In humility consider others

Paul is not bragging here, but he is being open about the difficulty of serving and following the Lord.

Juxtaposition between struggle/striving and riches/glory

Paul knows that true discipleship comes with a cost.

If you are living with your own interests <sup>in</sup> mind, you are missing maturity.

### Maturity requires honoring responsibility

“...the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship...”

Ephesians 4 – Growing one another up

Everyone has a role: the church’s job is to equip the saints; the saints build one another up.

Maybe you don’t know everything yet, but what do you know? What can you apply? Pass on? How can you love?

If you are living without taking responsibility for one another, you are missing maturity.

# The Marks of Maturity

Colossians 2:2-5

"...that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ."

*Description of desired maturity.*

## Maturity is marked by heartfelt encouragement

The more you press into Christ, the more encouragement you feel

Procrastinating vs actually doing the work

*if may feel like its not going to help - push through  
we are learning to press into God when things hard  
This is maturity.*

## Maturity is marked by unifying love

The gospel unifies us because we realize that we bring nothing to the table.

*if anyone says 'I love God' but hates his brother, he is a liar!  
if you can't love the brother you do see, how can you love God unseen?  
Humility of self, honor of others - this is maturity.*

## Maturity is marked by grounding assurance and faith

This doesn't mean you don't have doubts - we all do.

But it does mean that you have knowledge and experience that continually grounds you when the plausible arguments arise.

*Head knowledge paired w/ experiential knowledge - this is maturity.  
NEED BOTH.*

## Maturity is marked by rich understanding and knowledge of Christ

This is not just more head knowledge, although that's important

How about walking out the things you do know?

*This is maturity.*

## Maturity is marked by integrous living.

Paul is acknowledging the unity of spirit shared by all Christians, to be sure.

But he is also acknowledging that there is an obedience that occurs in his absence that brings glory to God.

*How do you act when no one is looking?*

*This is maturity.*

## Conclusion

So what about us?

What if instead of being like so many other churches with their silent posturing, their secret grudges, their individual pride and their judgment of others

We were a place where we all laid our cards on the table and just stated the obvious – there is a ton that I don't know!  
I have so much to grow in!

I am weak! I am a mess in this area of my life!

And – instead blaming everyone else for why you feel that way, maybe you take stock of your life, line it up with Scripture, own what you can in Christ, and ask for help with the things you need help with.

And – when someone comes to you in their weakness and mess, you don't judge them. You don't sigh internally by the burden this person has placed on you. You rejoice, because you have an opportunity (if the other is postured correctly) to join Christ in the work of building up his church in love.

↳ Honestly with self + God is the first step in any positive direction.

– Too long have we regretted over our own heart

– May we cast our crowns @ the feet of King Jesus.

The KING OVER our maturity.

– May we behold + treasure the message of salvation

– May we learn from each other + teach as we  
all model of unrelenting growth

– May we be marked as a people

continually growing  
continually building one another up in love.



Our posture towards others: Lord, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Our posture towards ourselves: Search me and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts

Grow me, change me!