

# A Church That Looks Like Jesus

So what does a *mature church* actually look like? Two verses near the end of Colossians chapter one that tell us exactly what a church that looks like Jesus is doing. We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me. Two verses. Six verbs. One enormous mission. Today, one at a time, we'll examine the work, the aim, and the cost.

## I. The Work

- A. 1:28: We **proclaim** him, warning and teaching everyone ...
  - 1. This is the word for “herald”. Public. Declarative. Out loud.
  - 2. What gets proclaimed? We proclaim *him*.
- B. 1:28: **Warning** and **teaching** everyone with all wisdom, ...
  - 1. Warning — to put in the mind.
  - 2. Teaching — instruction and patient explanation.
- C. 1:28: so that we may present **everyone** mature in Christ.
- D. 1:28: with all **wisdom**, ...Not just truth. *Wisely-applied truth*.

## II. The Aim

- A. Why proclaim? Why warn? Why teach?
  - 1. ... so that we may **present** everyone mature in Christ.
- B. Present: like handing something over at a temple, or like a servant presenting a gift to a king.
  - 1. Paul has a *day* in view here. He sees the day when all his work comes to its end.
  - 2. See 1:22. Christ's work on the cross has a presentation day in view.
    - a) We are aiming at a day.
    - b) The day when every person here is presented to Christ — fully formed, fully grown, fully his.
- C. Mature: so that we may present everyone **mature** in Christ.
  - 1. *Full-grown-ness*. We need to be aiming for *grown-up Christians*.
- D. In Christ: so that we may present everyone mature **in Christ**.
  - 1. Time, proximity, and love do their slow work.
  - 2. The measurement is a person. The yardstick for our growth is Jesus.

## III. The Cost

- A. 1:29: I **labor** for this, **striving** with his strength that works powerfully in me.
  - 1. Labor means *do work until you're exhausted*. The kind that leaves you tired.
  - 2. Striving. Think *agony* in trying to win a contest. Not just tiring — it's *contested*.
- B. 1:29: with his **strength** that works powerfully in me.
  - 1. Strength is the word we use for *energy*.
  - 2. And the energy doing the work in us is not our energy. It is his.

## IV. As We Close...

- A. Colossians 3:16: Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing **one another**...
- B. Every person in this room is somebody's responsibility — and every person in this room has somebody to be responsible for.