

# Fully Mature in Christ

Colossians 1:24-2:5 NIV

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1:24-2:5 NIV

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

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Romans  
5:3-5 ESV

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

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Luke  
9:23 NIV

What does it mean to follow Christ?

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

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Luke  
22:42 NIV

Jesus himself faced great suffering in humility, choosing God's will instead of His own.

42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

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Philippians  
2:6 NIV

Sloth vs Pride

Our call is to follow Christ's example in humility.

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;”

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25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

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The mystery is Christ in you, which gives us the hope of glory.



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28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

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The end goal: present everyone fully  
mature in Christ

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The process: proclaim, admonish, teach

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Proclaim Christ is Lord and make Him the  
center of your life.

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Teach and bring up followers of Christ in the knowledge of the wisdom of the Spirit and Word of God.

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Admonish the lost in love.

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29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. 2:1 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

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Twice Paul stresses the amount of effort he is putting forth on behalf of Christ for the sake of the Church.

Are we strenuously contending for one another?



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2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

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We are here for each other.

Fully Mature  
in Christ

Colossians  
1:24-2:5 NIV

2 My goal is that FIRST CONGO may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that FIRST CONGO may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that FIRST CONGO may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.