

12 Jan 2014: Sermon Notes Colossians 1:28-2:5 Spiritual Maturity by John Zheng

Background:

Paul wrote this letter as the Colossian church was being attacked and Paul reminded that he served all the Churches but in 2:1-5, he specially laboured for the Colossians and their sister church in Laodicea

Paul's goal is to present everyone mature spiritually

How to determine spiritual maturity in a Christian?

1. Obedience (v1-2a:"hearts may be encouraged")

When Paul is talking about heart he is talking about obedience

Psalm 53:1 ESV

[1] The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.

Matthew 12:34 ESV

[34] You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Paul also highlights this in 2 Thes to be encouraged in heart and obedience

2 Thessalonians 2:17 ESV

[17] comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

2. Affection (v2b: "being knit together in love")

In the original text, being knit is a participle to introduce a new area in maturity which is Love. Paul was encouraging them to do so as there were false teachers in the church who were deceiving those Christians who were not in fellowship with others (i.e not knitted in love)

Fellowship is an effective means to go against heresy.

We need to cherish others to drive our relationship instead of affection

Romans 12:10 ESV

[10] Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

E.g. If a husband quarrels with his wife, he fixes it because of cherishing the relationship with his wife because duringt he quarrel he is not going to have an affection mentality at that time.

So we must depend on the cherishing part of love to drive our relationships. Because you will not be kind, humble, meek or patient if you do not have love. Paul highlights this in Col 3:

Colossians 3:12-14 ESV

[12] Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, [13] bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. [14] And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

3. His knowledge (v2c-5:"understand and the knowledge of God's mystery")

This is the where the Colossian Christians failed the most, especially in rejecting the heresies and false teachers. Our knowledge of the bible and gospel is fundamental to our fail and is the basis of our foundation in Christ.

Paul wants the Colossian Christians to grow in 2 areas:

3a. Assurance (v2c)

To be assured that the bible is Gods word and Jesus is real. If. Do not believe or are not convinced, then we cannot say we are spiritually mature.

3b. Sufficiency of Christ (v3-5)

Jesus is sufficient to save us and he alone is enough to sanctify us. If we do not believe then we will use other forms (e.g psychology) to validate our faith which is wrong.

So as a mature christian, we must have the assurance and sufficiency that the word is correct and true. So we see that a Christian's obedience, affection and knowledge is how we can guage ourselves as a mature Christian.

Which area are we weak in? We must be humble to admit our weaknesses and sin before God and depend on his strength to overcome this. This is a good start for us to do this in the new year.