

This Is Us: Commitment to Maturity

Sermon Notes February 3rd, 2019

Colossians 1:28-29

²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

¹ Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

**Immaturity is not being able to be in relationship with each other.
Maturity is fighting for relationship.**

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided?

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him:

- ¹⁷ haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
- ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,
- ¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies
and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

**If you stir up conflict in community you are immature.
Maturity is being a peacemaker and removing division.**

Titus 3:9-11

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

1 Corinthians 10:4-8

⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? ⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.

**Immaturity is elevating people's teachings above another.
Maturity is humbly submitting & learning from everyone.**

Ephesians 5:15-16, 21

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11

⁹ For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

- 1) The power is in Jesus as the foundation of our lives...
- 2) And the relationships that we have with each other as Jesus is manifested through our relationships.

1 Corinthians 13:11, 13

¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me....

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love is at the center of spiritual maturity. Love is the outward indication of an inward level of spiritual maturity.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

The evidence of maturity & us growing in the faith because of God's Spirit inside of us is exhibited in our ability to be in relationship with God and other people.

"...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

Luke 6:45, Matthew 12:34, Proverbs 4:23

"It's not deep enough for me. Not enough meat."

"I don't like the preaching."

"I don't like the worship."

"It took forever to find a parking spot and the children's check in line was so long."

Why do they always talk about money and ask us to do things?"

"I don't want to be uncomfortable."

"It's not about me."

"In response to God's love and care to me and to have unity in the church with others on the same mission."

"I want to use my gifts to serve God & His Kingdom."

"I want to serve God and reach people and make disciples."

"This church is my family and I want to welcome people into the family."

