



Grace Group Guide



United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

- Scripture:** Be in the Word together
- Encouragement:** One another each other
- Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost
- Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!



-Icebreaker-

- What makes someone immature? And how do people grow in maturity?
 - Consider telling a personal story about something you've been through that caused you to grow in maturity.

Transition:

- Maturity takes time and effort. We have to learn certain things—often through experience—and put them into practice. In this passage, Paul will tell us that his goal is to present everyone “fully **mature** in Christ” (v. 28): a status that can only come through knowledge of the true gospel and (as we'll see later in chapter 2) living in it. As you read, consider your level of spiritual maturity (this will be a reflection question also).

-Discussion-

Read Colossians 1:21-2:5

(note: you read verses 21-23 last week also, but they will be covered in this sermon)

- ***In verses 23 and 25, Paul calls himself a “servant” of the gospel and of the church. What does he mean by this?***
 - **Potential answers:**
 - To share the gospel... especially to the Gentiles
 - To suffer for Christ by proclaiming the gospel of Christ and the body of Christ (the church)
- ***Three times in verses 27-29, Paul speaks about Christ being “in” us/him. What does he mean by this? And why should this give us hope (v. 27)?***
 - **Potential Answers:**
 - Christ's presence with us
 - our union with Christ
 - the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Christ)'s indwelling presence (for more on this, read Rom. 8:9)
 - **Hope:** our union with Christ now points forward to the perfect conformity to Christ we will have in the future (Rom. 8:29)
- ***In 2:1-5, Paul states his ministry “goal.” Make a list of some of the key ideas that he states in this goal and discuss what they mean.***
 - **Potential Answers:** That they may...
 - Be encouraged in heart
 - Be united in love
 - Have the “full riches” of complete understanding
 - Know Christ
 - Resist deceptive arguments that contradict the gospel
 - Know Paul's care and support for them (this is my summary of v. 5)

-Reflection-

- Describe your spiritual maturity level. Where do you see spiritual immaturity in your life? And is it related to lack of knowledge? Or lack of action?
- What would it look like for us to share Paul's zeal for Christ, the gospel, the church, etc.? We may not be called to the very same mission as the apostle Paul, but there should certainly be some overlap!
 - Here's at least one key: we should make it our goal to share the gospel with others around us!

-Application-

- Drawing from your answer(s) to the reflection questions, what is one thing you can do this week to grow in your spiritual maturity?
- Share the gospel with someone this week. Ideally, share it with someone who has not accepted Christ... but don't undervalue sharing the gospel with other believers also. We all need to hear the gospel regularly!

-Pray-

- Ask the Lord to help you and your group grow in spiritual maturity. Note that this is, ultimately, a work of the Holy Spirit!