

WHOLE DISCIPLE?

(Colossians 1:27-29)

How does one know when they reach adult hood? Become a man? Woman?

Marks of Maturity for Christlikeness: WHOLE Disciple

Our heart's desire for every believer: (**Growing; Connected; Serving; On Mission**)

-Romans 8:20 "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers *and sisters*;"

READ Colossians 1:25-29

Paul: I was made a minister of this Church according to the commission from God granted to me for your benefit, in order that I fully carry out *the preaching of the word of God* [make full the Word of God], ²⁶ *that is, the mystery* which had been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but now has been revealed to His saints, ²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what the wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles is, *the mystery* that is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing every person and teaching every person with all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete [perfect] in Christ. ²⁹ For this purpose I also labor, striving according to His power which works mightily within me.

-Lk 12:48 "*To whom much is given much is required.*" More revelation=more focused mission/wors
"Mystery" = the revelation that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah -died for sins of ALL peop
****Progressive revelation:** God intentionally reveals more about Himself through generations within Redemptive History – Romans 9:4-5 "*who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and daughters, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the temple service, and the promises;* ⁵ whose are the **fathers**, and from whom is the ^[a]Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed ^[b]forever."

-He is **THE Creator** God : Gen 1 and Rom. 1

-God of **Covenant** – entered into special relationship, commitment/oath for a spec. purpose (Adamic [works]; Noahic; Abrahamic; Mosaic; Davidic; NEW Covenant (Grace)=Messiah

- **Old Testament** (Covenant) ...NOW = **New Testament** (Covenant)

-God of **Power**: Exodus = rescued Israel;

-God of **Law**: gave them LAW of Moses (Moral Law; Levitical Law; Civil Law)

-God of **Presence**: Tabernacle (cloud-day/fire-night); Temple -God's presence =Holy of holies

-God of **Patriarchs**: God's prophets; God's leaders & shepherds; Kings, Judges, Priests,

-God of **Promise**: Messiah is coming to rescue you -**Jesus of Nazareth (but they killed Him)**

*This has been the 3500 year history of God's revealing His Nature, His Purpose, His plans dealing with His people: Jews first...then the **Gentiles** (radical, unforeseen shift for Jews/leadrs)

-Rom. 1:16 "For I am NOT ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the JEW first, and then to the Gentile." God's heart=mission=**LOST**

***So now Paul has been called, charged w/ getting this gospel message out to world Jew/Gentile

Paul: **V. 25:** I was made a minister of this Church according to the commission from God granted to me for **your benefit**, in order that I fully carry out *the preaching of* the word of God [make full the Word of God], ²⁶ *that is*, [what is the Word of God revealed?] the mystery which had been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but now has been revealed to His saints [the CH] ²⁷ *to whom* God willed to make known what the wealth of the glory of this mystery [hidden truth] among the Gentiles is [how blessed/privileged are we in this generation to be the recipients of the summation of God's revelation & divine plan for redemptive history], His glory = God's revelation of Himself (Justice/righteousness **AND** mercy/grace/love) reveals His depth of glory - perfect in majesty and balanced truth/grace & Law/gospel reality. = Jesus is perfect summation

***Vs 27:** *the mystery* that is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **Jesus is everything** *Then/now/forev*

A. Regeneration (death to life)/*Saved*;

B. Transformation/*Changed* = **new species** 2C. 5:17=(Spiritual indwelling; infilling; anointing);

C. UNION w/Christ/*Adopted* (relationship, identity, security, purpose = meaningful life *NOW* &

D. Sanctification/*Renewed* & restored to Christlikeness (*daily* process of spiritual **growth**) *growing*

***= DISCIPLESHIP** (**whole disciple**) - Lk 6:40 "A student is not above the teacher; but everyone when he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher" = we were born to look/be like Jesus Rom. 8:29

***A Disciple:** One who is *following* Jesus, being *changed* by Jesus, & continues the *mission* of Jesus

-1 Peter 2:21 "For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps."

Are you a true disciple? You following Jesus? Being changed? Or still same? On Mission???

***Discipleship:** Leading others to love God, follow Jesus, and model His mission to transform all nations/peoples = leading because YOU are following, being changed, & understand the mission!

*****We need disciplers.....**You need discipleship. How do I disciple another???

Vs. 28: We proclaim Him, we preach Jesus; we focus on Jesus; His life, His nature; His mission

***-admonishing every person** -cautioning/warning every person that they need Jesus (**only hope**)

-Jesus said "I am the way, truth, the life and **no one** comes to the Father except through me"

-1 Jn 5:12 "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

-Admonishing positively stated is evangelism: *sharing the hope of the good news w/lost world*

***-and teaching every person with all wisdom**, as we give them the gospel & lead them to Christ, then we are to teach them the Bible (show/**model** for them *all* of God's Word); how to pray/Ch.

-Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, *teaching them* to observe all that I

commanded you" -part of discipleship is to lead others to know/love/treasure/share Bible

-with all wisdom (God's Truth through the power of it's Author =the Holy Spirit) Lk 12:12

"We can never give away hat we don't own" we have to have this love/joy to model this to other

-Have you been changed /transformed by Jesus? Is it evident in ur life? Love His Word? Spirit???

*-so that we may present **every person** complete [perfect] in Christ. =Mature disciple/grown
-God has designed all living things to grow (life cycle: birth, growth, maturity; reprod; death)
-God has designed you, called you, equipped you, & expects you to **grow spiritually** **R U??**
"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual, but as worldly—as infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for solid food. In fact, you are still not ready, for you are still worldly. For there is jealousy, insecurity, and dissension among you." 1 Cor. 3:1-3

-Eph. 4:15 "we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the Head, that is Christ."

Vs. 13: "until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the ¹knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature ²which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

-*"In fact, we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. We also pray for this: your **maturity**."*
2 Cor. 13:9

-*"Finally, brothers . . . **Keep on growing to maturity**. Keep listening to my appeals. Continue agreeing with each other and living in peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you."*
2 Cor. 13:11

"You, therefore, must be perfect [perfect = growing into **complete maturity** of godliness in mind and character, having reached godly virtue and integrity], *as your heavenly Father is perfect."*
Matthew 5:48

"Jesus answered him, If you would be perfect [that is, have that **spiritual maturity** which accompanies divine, self-sacrificing character], *go and sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; and come, be My disciple."* Matthew 19:21

*"but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and **mature** character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."* Romans 5:4

*"And endurance (fortitude) develops **maturity** of character* [approved faith and tried integrity]. *And character produces joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation."* Romans. 5:4

*"that you may stand firm in all the will of God, **mature** and fully assured."* Colossians 4:12

*"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything."*
James 1:4 See a theme here in Scripture??

The Bible is clear that spiritual maturity is the goal for every Christian. Spiritual maturity is defined as being molded into the very character of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus "***grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man***" (Luke 2:52), so we too must continue to grow spiritually – with the Lord and in our relationships with others.

*[Spiritual maturity is evidenced in loving God fully, loving His Word, & loving His Church; in serving others using one's spiritual gifting & blessings; evangelizing the lost & discipling believers with Joy, sincerity, and with a lifelong commitment to Christ's mission that all may hear the good news of salvation]

Vs. 29: For this purpose I also labor, striving according to His power which works mightily within me. Paul's calling & passion was to win souls; disciple the saints; & unleash them on Mission to

What has changed in 2000 years??? The Church is still here!! You & me we're here!!!

*****We need disciplers**.....You need discipleship. We have a plan: **The PATH**

A **WHOLE** Disciple: At the WELL ...four basic components of comprehensive Discipleship:

1. Following: Knows the Lord, loves the Lord & **Grows** in Him
2. Changed: Known in biblical **Community**
3. Changed: Knows their spiritual gifting & **Serves** the Church
4. Mission: Knows their **Mission**: *People* =to love/serve spiritually needy where ever you live

The WELL's pursuit of churchwide, biblical, & intentional discipleship = The PATH

APPLICATION

Think about the following questions about your life: **Because of Jesus living w/in you....**

- Has your attitude changed about God, the Bible, the Church, or others recently?
- Have your habits changed recently? What are those habits you are not proud of?
- Has what you do with your free time changed?
- Has your taste in music, movies, media, or online websites changed?
- Have you developed any sensitivities that you had not previously had?
- Have you begun to want to pray more? Actually interested in learning something in the Bible?
- Have you desired to be around more positive people, friends, co-workers lately?
- What is something that you think would indicate you have changed in some way for the better?
- What does it mean to begin to look like and become like Jesus as in Romans 8:29?
- Who has intentionally discipled you/mentored you biblically?
- Who have you intentionally discipled? Spiritually invested in?
- Are you ready????

As you reflect on these questions and honestly assess your life, know that no matter where you are spiritually in your development (spiritual Infancy, Childhood, Adolescence, or Adulthood) – God wants you to keep growing and keep progressing spiritually into maturity. God's ultimate design for YOU is spiritual maturity – which can be defined as thinking, believing, and acting like Jesus. You were created to become more like Jesus everyday (Romans 8:29). This is the Lord's plan for your life. What is your next step??