Maturing In Christ

1 Corinthians 12:14-20, 31

1. Intro
   1. Unity in Christ: a choice
   2. Diversity in Christ: different, necessary gifts
   3. Connected in Christ: used together for a larger cause
   4. Maturing in Christ
      1. **There is an expectation in scripture that maturity comes**
      2. Discipleship is the act of following the leadership of someone growing in maturity
      3. 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 1But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 4For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?
      4. Maturity in Christ is
         1. Recognizing your giftedness
         2. Serving as you are called
         3. Being willing to be held accountable
      5. **Maturity is seen in the believer:**
         1. **In service to others and the mission**
         2. **In GRACE, as you handle TRUTH**
         3. **IN TRUTH as you walk in GRACE**
         4. **Discipleship multiplication**
   5. **Opportunities:**
      1. **December 14: ministry event with Rick Arnold**
      2. **Next year: capital campaign will begin, pray now.**
      3. **Leadership team report**
2. Text
   1. Verse 14: not one member but many
   2. Verse 15-17: each member of the body belongs
   3. Verse 18: God arranged as HE CHOOSES
   4. Verse 19: many parts make up the whole
3. Points
   1. **Proper perspective, God’s design**
      1. Not YOU, but US
         1. Selfishness has no value in the body of Christ.
         2. WE and US should be considered
         3. Maturity in the Body is shown when the body:
            1. Cares for one another
            2. Yields to one another
            3. Finds commonality and community with one another
         4. You have much to offer the Body, so serve as the body.
      2. Not YOU, but THEM
         1. See people as they are seen by God
         2. People needing a savior, and once saved, gifted to serve.
      3. **Warning:**
         1. **A life filled with little sacrifice is prone to lean towards selfishness**
         2. **Look to the needs of others, serve without reservation**
   2. **GOD arranged, HIS Choice**
      1. This is a challenging truth for many of us
      2. **So many of us are still in the mode of attempting to:**
         1. Manipulate God
         2. Convince God
         3. Change God
      3. **God chose you for HIS purposes, and it is a blessing**
         1. Isaiah 45:9 “Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ or ‘Your work has no handles’?
         2. Romans 9: 20-21 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?
      4. **Maturing in Christ requires us to follow by faith, and respond by action**
         1. **It is God’s will that you growing!**
         2. Do the work you have been called to do
         3. Serve and develop as God would grow you
   3. **Focus on what you ARE, rather than what you are NOT**
      1. **What you are “IN CHRIST” is affirmed in His word, and battled by the enemy**
      2. The enemy will tell you:
         1. You are not
         2. You have not
         3. You can not
      3. God says:
         1. YOU ARE
         2. YOU HAVE
         3. YOU CAN
      4. **Warning: don’t misapply this truth!** 
         1. Believe God to be telling the truth about you
         2. Don’t believe the false teachers spin on this
         3. Don’t allow the false teachers to take this beautiful truth from us.
         4. And don’t justify sin by claiming this truth...
      5. **There is no limit to what God can do through the working of HIS CHURCH**
         1. Philippians 1: 3-11 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
         2. Philippians 4:10-14 10I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13I can do all things through him who strengthens me. 14Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.
      6. **You are becoming that which you have already been made.**
4. Close