

What Does It Take to Become a Spiritual Grown-Up? (Part 1)

Colossians 1:28-29

BGT	²⁸ ὃν ἡμεῖς καταγγέλλομεν νουθετοῦντες πάντα ἄνθρωπον καὶ διδάσκοντες πάντα ἄνθρωπον ἐν πάσῃ σοφίᾳ, ἵνα παραστήσωμεν πάντα ἄνθρωπον τέλειον ἐν Χριστῷ· ²⁹ εἰς ὃ καὶ κοπιῶ ἀγωνιζόμενος κατὰ τὴν ἐνέργειαν αὐτοῦ τὴν ἐνεργουμένην ἐν ἐμοὶ ἐν δυνάμει.
NKJ	²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this <i>end</i> I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

I. THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A SPIRITUAL GROWN-UP

A. Involves continuous proclaiming

1. Christ is the focus, the foundation – “Whom we preach” – Christocentric
2. Proclaiming – used 18x in NT – only beginning in Acts – ending in this verse (not used past this verse)
3. Proclaiming is not suggesting nor discussing – authoritative because of the giver of the message
4. Not democracy, but revelation
5. Our job is to learn, not to like (enjoyment follows maturity)
6. It is to be continuous – We are to be under proclamation of the Word.
7. Are you focused on Christ and His teachings, or what you want?

B. Involves continuous admonishing

1. Bringing to mind; warning; reminding
2. Truth applied
3. This action is practiced by **leaders** (1:28) and by **learners** (3:16)
Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease **to warn** everyone night and day with tears.
1 Cor 4:14 I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I **warn** you.
Col 1:28 Him we preach, **warning** every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
1 Thes 5:12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and **admonish** you,
Rom 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also **to admonish** one another.
Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and **admonishing** one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
1 Thes 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn** those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.
2 Thes 3:15 Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but **admonish** *him* as a brother.
4. Every person is to be a receiver of admonition
5. It is to be continuous – We are to be open to receiving ongoing admonition. INTENT – change.

C. Involves continuous teaching

1. Instruction
2. This action is practiced by leaders (1:28) and by learners (3:16)
3. Essential for being stable and grounded (2:7)
4. Every person is to be a receiver of instruction
5. It is to be continuous – We are to be under instruction of the Word. INTENT – not just hearing.

6. Includes wisdom
 - a. (1:9) – that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom
 - b. (2:22-23) – *read both verses* – originates from Christ
 - c. (3:16) – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom
 - d. (4:5) – Walk in wisdom toward those [who are] outside, redeeming the time

D. Notice what is *not* listed

1. Programs
2. Extra-curricular activities

II. THE PURPOSING OF BEING A SPIRITUAL GROWN-UP

A. Presentation – in order that we might present (1:22; 1:28)

1. Christ's purpose in His sacrifice (1:22)
2. Paul's purpose in his service (1:28)

B. People – each person

1. Every person is to be admonished
2. Every person is to be taught
3. Every person is to be presented mature

C. Perfection – complete (mature) in Christ

1. Complete in Christ (1:28; 4:12)
2. Other passages that help give the meaning of “perfect”:

1 Cor 2:6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are **mature**, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

1 Cor 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be **mature**.

Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect** man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Phil 3:15 Therefore let us, as many as are **mature**, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

Heb 5:14 But solid food belongs to those **who are of full age**, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

James 1:4 But let patience have *its* **perfect** work, that you may be **perfect** and complete, lacking nothing.

III. THE POWER FOR BECOMING SPIRITUALLY MATURE (*next week*)

Unto which also I am laboring,
 while agonizing (1:29; 4:12)
 according to
 the energy of him (1:29; 2:12)
 that which is energizing
 me
 power. (1:11; 1:29)