

Theme: Maturity in Christ will not be found in learning and obeying a list of rules and regulations; moralisms will transform neither our children nor us. It will be found in submission to the commands of Christ and in the way of the cross as we are taught from His Word.

Background: We continue our look at the Core Values of HPC.

Introduction: What does a child learn who isn't *taught* anything? They learn a lot - but nothing good.

I. The Place of Teachers (11-12)

A. Christ's gift to the Church

1. Are these all gifts/offices that are for the Church today?

- Apostles - 3 possible meanings

1) Every Christian is a *messenger* (John 13:16)

- This is an obligation, not a *gift*

2) Sent out by a church as messenger or missionary
(2 Corinthians 8:23; Philippians 2:25))

3) Those personally chosen and sent out by Jesus. NO!

- The sense in which Paul represented himself

- How it is used throughout the letter (1:1; 2:20; 3:5)

- There are no such *Apostles* today.

- There are those today with an *apostolic ministry*.

- Prophets - With authority to speak "thus sayeth the Lord"? NO!

But gifts of insight into the text of scripture? Yes

Gifts of *Interpretation* – not *inspiration* (new truth God is revealing)

- Evangelists With unique gifts of persuasion

- Pastors (shepherds) and Teachers

- Not all teachers are pastors – all pastors must be teachers

- Gifts for *Interpretation* not *Inspiration*!

2. Five gifts for instruction/teaching

B. To equip the saints for the work of ministry!

1. The deadly comma!

- The church as a *pyramid* vs. a *body*

2. A shared ministry

C. To build up the body of Christ

II. For Our Maturing (13-14)

A. Unity of faith

1. It is something we have! (3-6)

- We must maintain it

2. Something we pursue

- Not yet *attained*

B. Knowledge of the Son of God

1. To *know* Him! (1 Timothy 1:12)

- More than "information" about him

- To know Him is to know the truth
- 2. To have His righteousness (Philippians 3:9)
- 3. To have the power of the resurrection (Philippians 3:10)

NOTE: That knowledge and that life will not be *attained* by keeping the law. Paul is the poster child for that fact.

C. The fullness of Christ

- Contentment, peace, assurance, power, love

D. Stability and security

1. Not "tossed about" on the sea of life
2. Living in the truth

III. To Bear Lasting Fruit

A. Speaking truth in love ("Truthing" in love)

- Maintaining, living, doing truth
- Not so much about personal confrontation as it is about sharing the gospel truth

B. Grow up!

- Don't just grow "old"

C. Using *our* gifts

- all working together

D. Built up - and building up - in love

1. It requires sacrifice
2. It takes practice! (Romans 12:2)
3. It's not all about doctrine!

IV. Conclusions

1. How well do you know the Son of God?
2. Put yourself in the path of grace (Hebrews 5:12-13; Matthew 11:29)