WOW: Word Of the Week

Maturity

February 4, 2026

Our series theme is “radical disicpleship.” The root, the core. Essentials.

Maturity is overlooked, underrated. Maturity is essential, the goal. Too many Bible passages to mention them all. I think of two: Col. 1 and Eph. 4.

Col. 1:28. One of my favorite sermons to preach for almost 60 years. We proclaim Him. This is not the place to repreach the three points. Notice the goal of preaching Christ, in the same verse. The point of admonishing (continually putting into the minds of every person) and teaching for wisdom is “to present everyone mature in Christ.”

Your translation may say perfect, or complete, but the original word is related to reaching the end, the goal, the maximum result. This is not sinlessness. This is maturity. This is Eph. 4:13—to become mature. Doable.

What is maturity? An illustration. Churches newly planted begin as infant churches. They cannot do much for themselves, they need help. They are non-functional in many aspects of church life. Such churches should seek maturity. What does that mean? That means they can function and do for themselves. A baby cannot walk or talk. We have different expectations of the same child at age 4—the process is called maturity, eventually able to function with a minimum of outside support. Eph. 4 makes it clear—leaders are called to equip for action.

Churches, and people, struggle to mature spiritually. Many Christians struggle to survive with only their own resources. They do not study or know the word of God. They pray infrequently. They have not developed a spiritual mind or spiritual habits. Without a constant support system, they become weak spiritually. They are on constant life-support. The goal is maturity.

Missionary churches often struggle to develop strong biblical roots. Weak Bible knowledge results in struggles with morality and integrity. What is the need? Teaching and admonishing. We proclaim Christ!

The modern church has a problem with maturity because we have missed Col. 1:28. We are converting people to the church. People come and want to be among us because they like our church. The church is not the message—the church is the result. People want the church without putting on Christ. That leads to incompleteness, imperfection, immaturity. Christ is the message. Jesus at the center of our lives results in the church. Too many churches have forgotten Jesus. One Christian remarked about the new preacher, “He has brought Jesus back to this church!” Good! But sad.

This view of maturity is radical. Radical disciples. Radical discipleship. The root. The basics. The message is Jesus. We follow Jesus. Our loyalty and allegiance is to Him. Paul knew it. He invested all his energy, struggles, and labor, ultimately depending on God’s power working within him, “to present everyone mature in Christ.”