

# Growth Group Bible Study

Moving Toward Maturity: Becoming a Fully Devoted  
Follower of Jesus Sermon Series  
*Moving Toward Maturity*



January 20, 2019

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**Reading** Colossians 1:25-29

## Opening Questions

1. What were (are) road trips like with your kids?
2. What “marks of maturity” or “signs of growing up” did you or do you look for in your children? What did your parents emphasize to show you were becoming a “grown up”?
3. What person (or persons) could you point to in your life as a Christian who has disciplined you and in what ways did they do so?
4. Share if you can pick a particular sermon that you have heard over the years that greatly impacted your life as a Christian.

## Study

1. What is the background to Paul’s letters to the Colossians? What strikes you about Paul’s heart in these verses (and in the whole letter) for people in a church he has never visited? cf. Phil. 1:3-5; 1 Thess. 2:5-8
2. Read Matt. 28:19-20. How is this command of Jesus critical to our understanding of discipleship? How does Jesus tell us to “make disciples”? How important is baptism upon profession of our faith in Jesus?
3. How can we define the word “disciple” for the Christian?

4. How does Paul state this goal of discipleship in Col. 1:28?
5. Does “complete” (vs28) mean “perfect”? What does it mean?
6. Do you agree that “discipleship takes place in and needs Christian community” and if so, how does that occur?
7. What three ways does Paul share that are part of discipling? How does our church help in these areas? In what other ways can these be accomplished in our lives? cf. Romans 10:13-15; Acts 20:31; Col. 3:16
8. In what way is “discipleship a process over time”? How is it “more like a crockpot than a microwave”? What does that say about our judgments of one another “while in process”?
9. How does Paul express that discipleship is “hard” in 1:29? Also see 2 Cor. 11:23-29
10. In what way is discipleship “a battle against complacency”?

## **Application**

1. Seriously and prayerfully ask yourself the questions: “How am I doing as a disciple of Jesus?” “Am I moving toward maturity as a Christian and what would help me to keep growing?” Ask God to show you what would help.