

Personal Bible Study For Week Seven: Reaching spiritual maturity

Bible Study Day: 1

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31

1. What is the main thought in this piece? (Compare verse 12, 19, 20-31)
2. In verse 13 Paul is referring to the Church when he is speaking about the “body.” Why does he mention a Jew, a Greek, slaves and people that are free? What does he mean with the rest of the verse?
3. Do you think the unity amongst Christians is enough? What is the position in your congregation? How does your life reflect this?
4. Paul mentions the responsibility of the members of the “body” towards each other. What is the position in your congregation, what is the position in your life?
5. What is the connection between the ideas above and the congregation?

Bible Study Day: 2

Read Philippians 1: 27-2: 11

1. Paul is making a call for the congregation to stand steadfast under all circumstances, make a special note of the importance Paul places on unity. Why do you think he does that?
2. What is working against this unity in the congregation?
3. What should the attitude of the members of the congregation be towards each other?
4. In the light of this how do you understand: “Meanwhile, live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ? Let nothing in your conduct hang on whether I come or not. Your conduct must be the same whether I show up to see things for myself or hear of it from a distance. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news?” (Php 1:27)

Bible Study Day: 3

Read Philippians 1:9-10, 1 Corinthians 2: 12-16, 1 Timothy 1: 15b, Philippians 3:17, 1 Thessalonians 2: 10

1. The emphasis in the group study this week will be on Christian maturity. What do you understand by it?
2. What are the characteristics of maturity mentioned in Philippians 1: 9-10 and 1 Corinthians 2:12 – 16?
3. What are the characteristics of maturity does Paul mention in 1 Timothy 1:15b, Philippians 3: 17 and 1 Thessalonians 2: 10?
4. How do the above compare to the Christians of today? And you?
5. What is the special message from God to you regarding today bible study?

Bible Study Day: 4

Read Ephesians 6: 9, Deuteronomy 10: 17, Philippians 4: 11b- 13, Genesis 39: 21, Job 2:10b

1. The first two pieces that you have read mentions another important aspect of spiritual maturity. What is it?
2. The rest of the above pieces of scripture mention another important aspect. What is it?
3. Do the members of your congregation show these signs? And you?
4. If things are not completely right, what can be done about it?
5. What is the special instruction for you in today's study?

Bible Study Day: 5

Read 2 Corinthians 3: 1-2, 4: 5, Philippians 1: 18-26, Hebrews 10: 24, Galatians 6: 1-2, 1 Corinthians 8:9, 13, Genesis 4: 9, Luke 10: 29, Matthew 14: 16

1. What are the signs of spiritual maturity in the first three pieces of scripture?
2. What signs of spiritual maturity is the theme of the rest of our reading of today?
3. Do you think enough of the aspects mentioned in the second part can be seen in your life?
4. Can we simply ignore it?
5. What can be done about it?
6. Where will you start?

Bible Study Day: 6

Read 1 Corinthians 9: 15 – 27

1. Paul's life was a very good example of a life of service. What was the reason, why was it important to him?
2. How did he do this?
3. Is this the case in your life?
4. What is meant by "(1Co 9:23) I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it?"
5. What is the example of service that an athlete shows to a Christian?
6. How can you implement it, what is it really saying to you?

Group Bible Study Week Seven

Read Ephesians 4: 1-16

Verse 1:

Eph 4:1 In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk--better yet, run!--on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. To give attention to your life in Christ to such an extent that your life draws people to Christ.

Verse 2&3:

Eph 4:2 And mark that you do this with humility and discipline--not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love,
Eph 4:3 alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

The unity the Holy Spirit brought by uniting Jew and Gentiles through the life of Christ.

Verse 7

Eph 4:7 But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift.

This is about the special gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 8

He handed it all out in gifts to the people.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

Verse 12

Eph 4:12 to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church,

If every member of the congregation uses these gifts to full potential, the whole congregation will be brought to maturity

Verse 13

we're all

.Emphasis is on the congregation as a whole and not on separate members.

Verse 14

No prolonged infancies among us, please

Verse 15

to know the whole truth and tell it in love

The truth has to come out in love

We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do.

We have to grow toward Christ all the time

1. What is it that Paul is warning the congregation about in verse 1?
2. What is the role that these aspects need to play in the building process of the congregation?
3. How are we supposed to see the role of unity amongst members of the congregation and of the church in a wider sense?
4. What are the special duties given to the office bearers?
5. What is the final purpose of a Christian's service?
6. Can this still be seen in the 21st century?
7. Motivate your answer and give a solution if there is one.
8. What kind of preaching is beneficial for the building of the congregation?