

Colossians 1:21-29 (NLT) 21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

23 But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

24 I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. 25 God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. 26 This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. 27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

28 So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. 29 That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

Discipleship is not an exercise in control, it's an expression of care

Study Guide

This last week we took a look at Colossians and shared about how discipleship is not an exercise in control, it's an expression of care.

When you think about discipleship, what comes to mind? What has been some discipleship you've participated in the past? What was that like? Have you ever helped with someone else's discipleship? What was that like?

The process of discipleship can be challenging, and it can be difficult, but when we remember the purpose then things start to shift from just difficult to difficult and worth it. Take a moment to read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How do you think what Paul is saying here applies to our conversation about discipleship?

If you have ever participated in sports it is likely you had coaches, trainers, others that were guiding you so that you could achieve all you were able to. That is discipleship. People who were helped by others, helping others, so that we can all move closer to Jesus.

Take some time to pray about what the next step is for you in your discipleship, and that God would give us the confidence and peace we need to move with purpose.