

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT CHURCH?

Part 3: Colossians 1:24-29



What's the Big Deal About Church?

Part 1 – Why should I love the church?

- ***Because Jesus loves it***

Part 2 - Why do I need the church?

- ***Because I can't follow Jesus alone***

Part 3 – Why does the church exist?

- ***To make disciples***

Context: *Colossians*

1. Letter written by Paul to Christians in Colossae
2. Primarily Gentile audience
3. Church being confronted with teaching suggesting that Jesus wasn't quite enough

That in all things He [Christ] might have

PREEMINENCE

Colossians 1:18

“mystery”

vv. 26, 27 – “mystery” – “the church” – “Gentiles” – “person of Jesus”

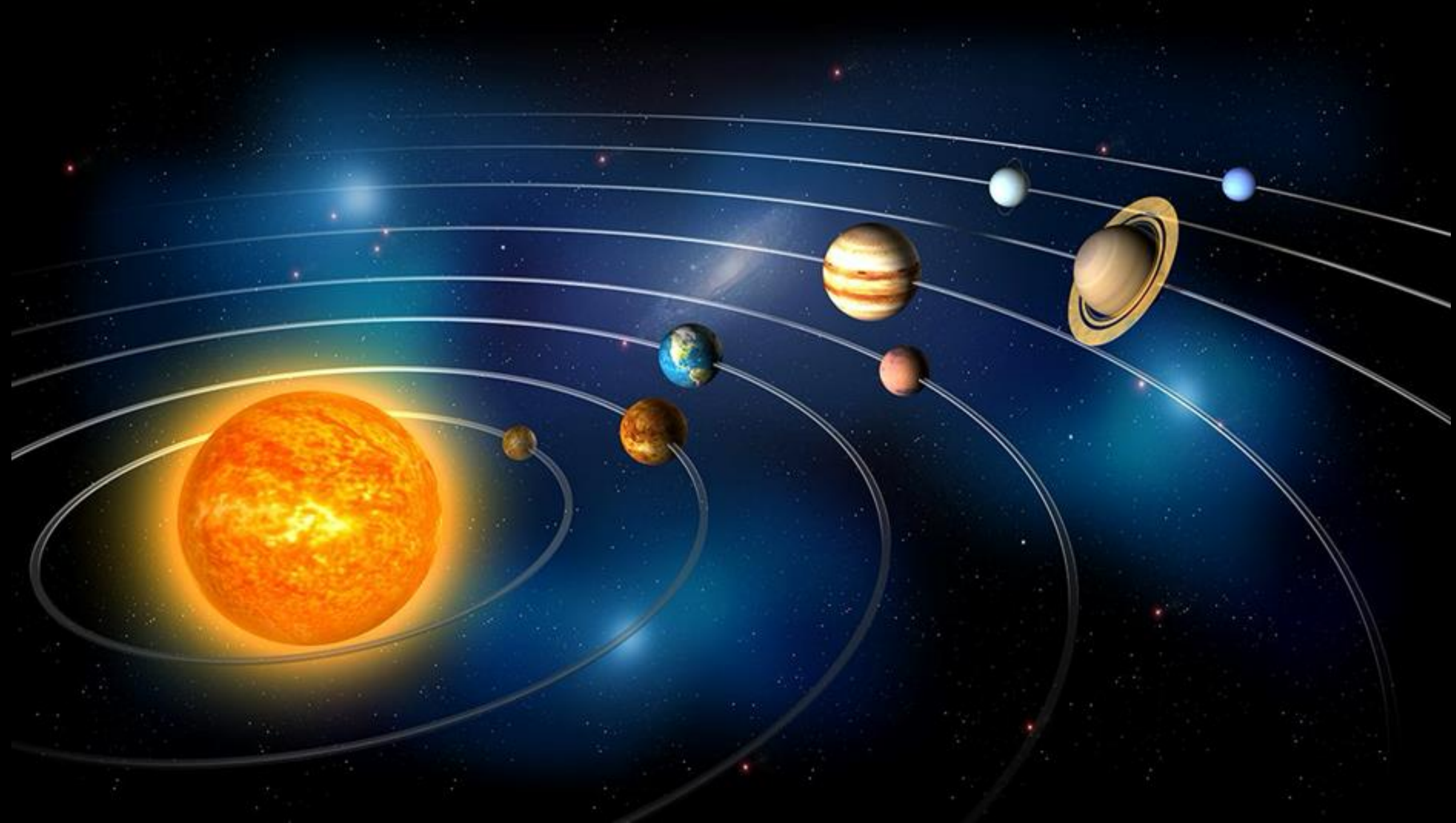
Ephesians 3:1-7

1. Christ has fully accomplished God’s salvation plan.
2. Gentiles are fully included in that salvation.
3. Christ now dwells in His people – “Christ in you.”
4. Jews & Gentiles comprise one new people in Christ, which is the definition of the church.

WHAT DOES A DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH DO?

1. We make Jesus the center “*whom we preach*” (vs. 28).

- *Jesus shapes what I believe.*
- *Jesus shapes what I want.*
- *Jesus shapes my decisions.*
- *Jesus gets the glory.*



WHAT DOES A DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH DO?

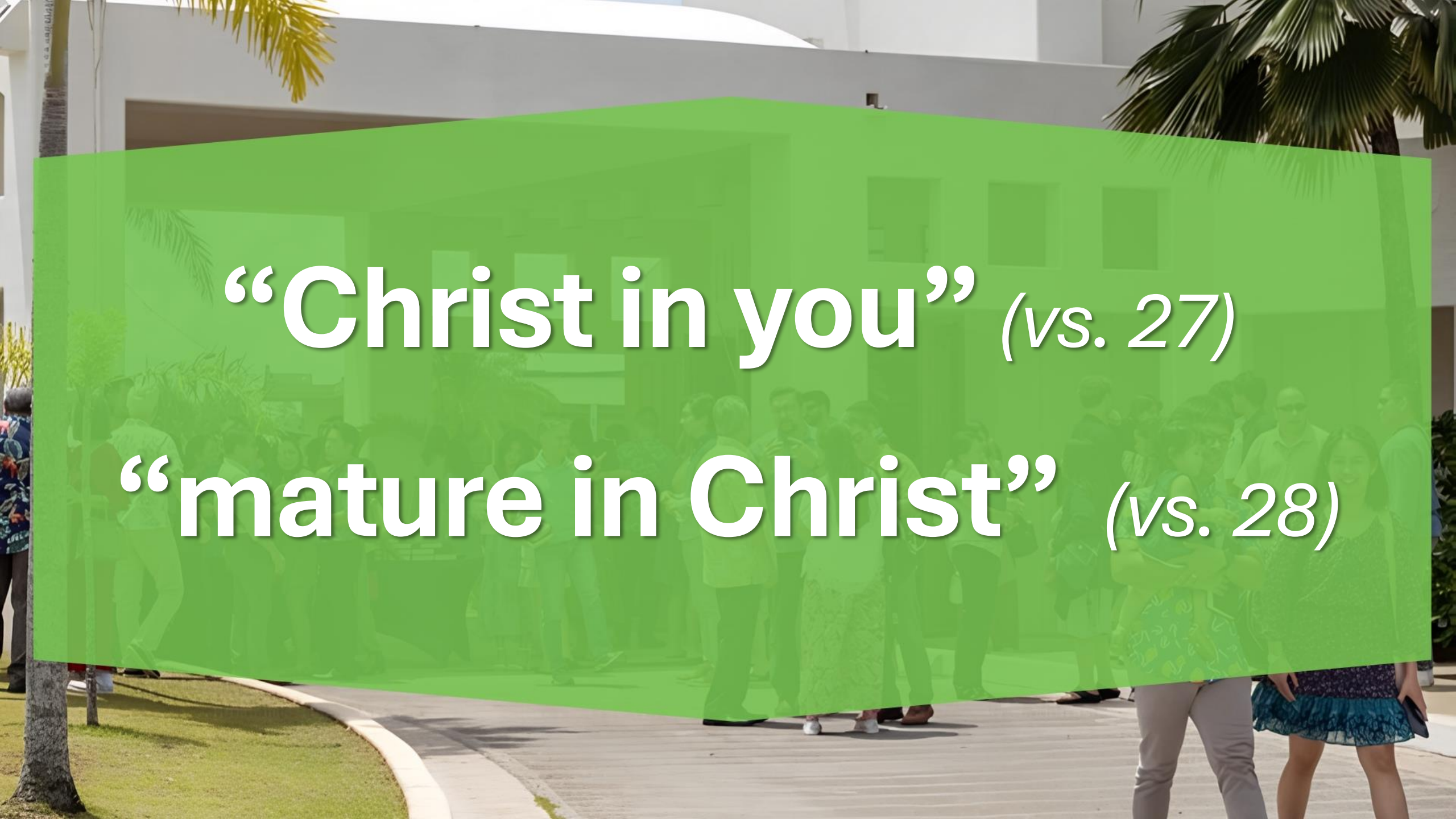
1. We make Jesus the center *“whom we preach”* (vs. 28).
2. We make maturity the goal *“that we may present every man perfect in Christ* (vs. 28).

A group of people, including men, women, and children, are walking along a paved path in front of a modern, light-colored building. Palm trees are visible in the background. The scene is bright and sunny. A large, semi-transparent white oval is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

**Spiritual maturity must be
measured by transformation,
not birthdays.**

Spiritual maturity means growing up spiritually in at least 3 areas:

- Growing in Character - I increasingly *LOOK* like Jesus.
- Growing in Convictions - I increasingly *THINK* like Jesus.
- Growing in Mission - I increasingly *LIVE* for what Jesus lived for.



“Christ in you” *(vs. 27)*

“mature in Christ” *(vs. 28)*

A hand-drawn sign on a wooden A-frame stand in a construction site. The sign is white with a black border and contains the text: "EXCUSE OUR MESS..." in black, "SOMETHING" in black, "GREAT" in yellow with black outlines, and "IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION." in black. The background shows a room under renovation with exposed wooden framing, a yellow ladder, and debris on the floor.

EXCUSE
OUR MESS...

SOMETHING
GREAT
IS UNDER
CONSTRUCTION.

WHAT DOES A DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH DO?

1. We make Jesus the center “*whom we preach*” (vs. 28).
2. We make maturity the goal “*that we may present every man perfect in Christ* (vs. 28).
3. We make discipleship everybody’s job “*everyone...everyone...everyone*” (vv. 28-29).

WHAT DOES A DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCH DO?

Jesus is the center;
maturity is the goal;
*disciple-making is
everybody's job.*