



## SERMON NOTES: THE CHURCH BEYOND 5: TOWARDS MATURITY (01/05/16)

### SCRIPTURE

*Acts 14:21-26*

*1 Corinthians 4:9-13*

*1 Corinthians 3:1-17*

### KEY POINTS

- + Paul is adamant about new churches not being dependent on, or over-glorifying of the apostles that nurtured them. He actively works against the creation of a Christian celebrity culture.
- + The role of the apostles was to lay down a foundation of Christ, not of themselves, and, like parents, to educate and show believers the way to maturity.
- + Paul reminded the believers that they are God's temple/sanctuary: built as a dwelling for God's Spirit. It's this Spirit, not feelings, that defines a Christian.
- + We often try to change our attitudes first to change our desires. But our desires are better shaped by establishing rituals and habits that in turn shape our attitudes, then our desires.
- + You do not have to know everything to be a witness—we are called to have a bias towards action, empowered by the Holy Spirit. This bias towards action comes with repeating good and Godly habits that move us away from a passive position 'drinking milk' (1 Cor 3:2).

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + Read Acts 14:21-26. What values or practices does this passage show as central to establishing these new believers and entrusting their leaders? How do these things impact the stability, longevity and fruitfulness of a church?
- + Consider the pattern of beginning with rituals/habits to shape attitudes, which in turn shape desires. Have you seen this played out in your own life? Identify a new ritual/habit you can

initiate and commit to it for the next month, sharing your plan with your group (make sure it is specific, e.g. 'read one chapter of the bible and note down reflections for half an hour every morning' rather than 'get into a quiet time rhythm'). Check in in a month's time to see what impact this has had on your attitudes and desires.

- + Do you ever find yourself overly dependent on one particular pastor/writer/speaker/mentor? How can you keep this in balance and ensure that Christ alone is your foundation?
- + **What stuck out to you from the teaching?** Did God remind you of something, or reveal something new? Did the Spirit minister to you?
- + **Were any questions raised for you?** Did you get stuck on any scriptures or points? Anything you need clarity on?
- + **Where do we see Jesus Christ in this teaching?** Jesus is at the centre of everything in the Scriptures. It follows that he is at the centre of everything we understand about church, faith and the Kingdom. What in the teaching has helped you see more of Jesus and the cross, or moved you to love him more?
- + **How can you personally apply this teaching?** Identify and commit to something you sense the Spirit is leading you to do in obedient response. Make it actionable and personal. What is in place to help you stay accountable to this?
- + **What/with whom can you share from here?** Who in your life needs to know the truth you've discovered? How can you share it with them?