

Going back to series Entrusted.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 ² ... the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

The “things” – Was the good news?

- That the kingdom of God, the Age to Come
- Has broken into our world in and through Jesus.
- And “in” and “through” him, God is busy making all things new.

Entrust to reliable men ...

Entrust = Paratithemi – to place into the care or protection of someone.

This message of the renewal of all things.

- Must be passed on from teacher to student.
- Paul / Timothy type of relationships.

As you grow and mature spiritually this needs to move to ...

- One another relationships. Peter & Paul

This is different to Paul & Timothy (Teacher/Student) relationships.

- Where one is “over” the others.

This is a “peer” relationship.

Today I want to talk about ...

1. Signs of Readiness.
2. (and then next week) What it looks like in practice.

Sings of Readiness

Do we just automatically move into the maturity of one another relationships?

In Romans 15 Paul says ¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. Romans 15:14

Is this scripture for everyone Christian?

- Is every Christian full of goodness, complete in knowledge ...
- And competent to instruct one another?

Or is this one-another type of relationship, only for the mature?

Let's take a look at another letter to another group of Christians.

Hebrews 5:11–12 ¹¹We have much to say about this, ¹²but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. ["This" being, Jesus high priesthood according to Melchizedek.]

So, there are some profound things that they want to share with them.

- But, it would be too hard to explain, "because they are slow to learn."

Some other bible translations of "... you are slow to learn."

"...you have become dull of hearing." ESV

"...you have become too lazy to understand." HCSB

¹²In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

Here we have a different group of Christians.

- Clearly not full of goodness, complete in knowledge
- And certainly not competent to instruct one another.
- Although they have seemingly been around ...
- For a significant amount of time.

What do we learn from this?

"Spiritual age does not equal spiritual maturity."

Therefore, he says ... though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

I think we have a number of Romans 15 ¹⁴ people in the room ...

- Who are competent enough to instruct one another.
- I think of ...

Unfortunately, I also think that we have a number of ...

- Hebrews 5 Christians in the room.
- And this is causing certain family groups to plato.

So, what are some of these Elementary things ...

- That we need to get down in our day and time

- Before we move onto One Another/Bondservant relationships.

1. OWNERSHIP

1 Timothy 4:7–8 ⁷ ... train yourself to be godly. ⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Key things

- Walk with God, my faith, my passion.
- Character
- Family
- Getting Better
- Involved in work of Jesus.

My relationship with God is my responsibility.

- Anything that I get from anyone other than me is gravy.
- Your relationship with God is your responsibility.
- And anything that you get from anyone beside yourself, is gravy.

The development of my character is my responsibility.

- In order to develop my character, I am certainly going to need help.
- But is my responsibility to get the help required.
- It is my responsibility to not get sucked into victim land.
- Not to be happy with "Here" and take ownership.

Being a great husband, dad, leader, mentor ...

2. GROWTH

2 Peter 1:3–9 ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge ...

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

a) Relationship with God.

- You are walking with Jesus on a daily basis. (Psalm 127)
- Studying his word, praying, meditating.
- You are continuously seeking to know him better.
- Your heart and mind is open to the whispers of his spirit.
- Your faith, trust and resolve are increasing.
- You are more in love, more dependent, more passionate.

b) Character

- You are a passionate learner when it comes to ...
- Character growth and development.
- Thinking about it, praying about it, studying, meditating ...
- Asking questions.

You are growing in your ability to ...

- Navigate through the Highs and Lows of Leadership.
- Overcome Personal Discouragement.
- To maintain Sober mindedness in a Crisis.
- To Keep Ego at Bay at all Times
- And to Stay focused on Life's Mission.

Your character is fully submitted to Christ.

- You are keeping your fears at bay.
- You do not allow your psychological baggage to influence your righteousness.
- Your ears are open to the whisper of the spirit.

c) Relationships

- The quality of your relationships is deepening.

d) Competence

- Getting better.

3. CONSISTENCY

- You are not a jo-jo.
- Your graph looks like this ...
- Not like this ...

4. SELF-AWARENESS

- Relationship with God.
- Character

- Chemistry
- Competence

How?

- Prayer
- Reflection
- Mirrors

If I don't have the Basics down then the Peter/ Paul Relationship is not for you

- You need a Teacher.

How are we doing on these basics, gentlemen?

- I think we have a number of men in so called ...
- "One-another" relationships, that are not ready for it.