

# Concern for Christ-Centered Service

Part 4

Colossians 1:26-29

# Four Marks of Christ-Centered Service in the Church

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- I. The Character of Christ-Centered Service
- II. The Context of Christ-Centered Service
- III. **The Content of Christ-Centered Service**  
(Colossians 1:26-29)

### III. The Content of Christ-Centered Service

Our service to one another has both a **foundation** and a **form** which **function** together towards a **final** outcome.

### III. The Content of Christ-Centered Service

First, this is a “*mystery which has been hidden from past ages and generations...*”

Second, “*but has now been manifested to His saints...*”

Paul spoke of this mystery to both the Christians in Corinth and those in Rome in the same way he is using the term here. (Romans 16:25ff; 1 Corinthians 2:6ff)

### III. The Content of Christ-Centered Service

1 Corinthians 2:9 • Paul says this saving wisdom which has been hidden from previous generations is now being revealed by God to a particular people, to people from every nation, but only to a people identified as "those who love Him."

**How** does God reveal this mystery to us?

→ Colossians 1:25, 28

It is revealed through the **proclamation of the gospel**, the good news that Jesus Christ can live in you, so that **His sinless life** lived on earth to the glory of God the Father **becomes your new life**.

A person whom God has chosen to reveal this truth to is one who has been **brought out of** alienation, separation, and sinful hostility with God and **into favor with God**, so that **God now sees the sinless life of His Son in you**.

### III. The Content of Christ-Centered Service

The message is crystal clear:

It is **not** Jesus *plus* anything—

it is just Christ... in you.

We proclaim Him!

# IV. The Conduct of Christ-Centered Service (Colossians 1:28-29)



## IV. The Conduct of Christ-Centered Service

### *Proclaiming*

- *Katangellō*: declare, report
  - A general term (not limited to formal preaching)
  - Carries the idea of a solemn, broad, public, open announcement about something
- *Kēryssō* (2 Timothy 4:2) “preach”
  - to be a herald; officiate as a herald

## IV. The Conduct of Christ-Centered Service

### *Admonishing*

- *Noutheteō*: admonish, warn, instruct
- The idea of **warning** away

## IV. The Conduct of Christ-Centered Service

### *Teaching*

- *Didaskō*: instruct, impart skills/knowledge to
- Positive instruction in God's truth, or in His wisdom for living the Christian life

→ *“with all wisdom”*

“If one were to look closely at many churches today and assess the shape and form of ministry, verse 28 would likely need to be rewritten as follows: ‘Him we mention only in passing, lest we offend seekers or sound excessively religious. [Rather than warning and teaching...] we seek to please and entertain everyone so that they might feel good about themselves and be reassured that all is well in the world.’

“As cynical as that might sound, it is all too tragically true. We have abandoned admonishment and warning, for it would require that we speak of ‘sin,’ a forbidden word in many congregations. To instruct or teach would require both that pastors study and prepare and that Christians listen and learn. But we live in an age where people refuse to ‘endure sound teaching’ but with ‘itching ears’ they ‘accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions’ and they ‘turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.’”

*Sam Storms*

*What kind of people want this kind of life?*

People who have been put into the church  
and who care about **holiness**...

People who put a premium on being  
family-of-God, church-life people...

People who are willing to risk it all, and commit it all...

People who love one another enough  
to tell each other the truth in love.

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