

Let's Grow Together

Ephesians 4:11-16 | September 13, 2020

Context: At the end of Ephesians 3, there was a prayer for spiritual maturity. Now in chapter 4 we learn more about how people mature spiritually—not in isolation, but in the context of the functioning body of Christ.

Two essential ingredients for spiritual growth:

1. Pastors/teachers must equip Christians _____ (11-15).

Goals of discipleship in verses 13-15:

- Unity of the faith and knowing Christ
- Completeness
- Life and character of Christ

2. _____ must participate in ministry to others (16).

Notice...

- The prominence of Christ (11, 12, 13, 15)
- The prominence of the body (12, 15, 16)
- The prominence of love (15, 16)
- The glory and beauty of the entire process

To grow disciples, pastors must equip and members must minister.

Application:

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the other Biblical commands for Christians to minister to each other?
2. Can you give an example of how a group or someone who was not a pastor helped you grow spiritually?
3. What is one tangible step you can take to put this passage into practice?



Questions for Parents to use with their children:

- 1. Begin by having each person describe one of their favorite gifts that they have received.**
- 2. Next, take a moment and read Ephesians 4:11-16 out loud together.**
- 3. What do you observe about God the Father and Jesus Christ in this passage?**
Answer: God is the one who gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers in verse 11. Also, Christ is the head of the body, meaning he is the leader and director and guide of the church.
- 4. Who are the people God gave (as gifts) to the body of Christ in verse 11? Also, what are they to do according to verses 12-13?**
Answer: Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (verse 11). They are to equip the saints for the work of ministry and bring about unity in the body (verse 12).
- 5. There are two metaphors that Paul uses to contrast Christians in verses 13 & 14? How are they described?**
Answer: Mature manhood in v13 vs. children in v14. Mature Christians grow in their knowledge of Jesus who is the standard of maturity. Children are immature in the truths of Jesus and of Christian doctrine. They are tossed around like the waves and wind of cunning and deceitful schemes of bad teachers.
- 6. What are Christians to do in order to grow into Christlikeness according to verse 15?**
Answer: Learn and speak to each other the truths about Jesus and the Christian faith.
- 7. How is love displayed when it comes to growing as a Christian in verse 15?**
Answer: When we speak. We do not want to beat the truths of Jesus and Christianity over people's heads in an unloving way. We want to be gentle, gracious, and perhaps timely when we share the truth.
- 8. Paul continues describing the church's maturity by using a body metaphor in verse 16. Who all is involved in making the body grow?**
Answer: Every Christian or each part.
- 9. How can you apply this passage to your life?**
Answer: Commit to growing in your understanding of the truths of the Bible and Jesus. This will protect our body from the schemes of false teachers and the Devil. Also, encourage the Pastors and Elders who serve the Harvest family.