

Growing Together in Community 8-3-2025

Christian maturity requires community.

11 *“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 So that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*

15 *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ,*

16 *from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*

Ephesians 4:11–16

1: The Church Is a Body, Not a Building

“So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Romans 12:5

A disconnected Christian is a dismembered limb—no life, no growth, no fruit.

2: Gifts Are Meant to Equip, Not Entertain

“He gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers...”

The church grows because the **body is equipped** to do the work of Christ.

Every believer is needed and important

3: Maturity is a We Process, Not a Me Process

“Until we all attain... to mature manhood...”

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you.’” 1 Corinthians 12:21

We grow when we stay long enough to work through conflict, not walk away from it.

4: Speaking the Truth in Love

“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way...”

Healthy community requires both **truth and love**.

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend.” Proverbs 27:6

5: Conflict Is Not the End of Community

You don't grow when things are easy—you grow when love costs something.

6: Growth Is Measured in Christlikeness, Not Church Size

"...into Him who is the head—into Christ."

Spiritual growth is not about becoming a better version of *you*—it's about becoming more like **Him**.

We were designed to grow **in community**