

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"Growth For Unity"
Ephesians 4:13-16
Study-14

Ephesians 4:1-16 – Walking In Unity.

Ephesians 4:1-3 – Unity Is Maintained Through Christ-Like Character.

Ephesians 4:4-6 – The Unity We Share Is In The Truth.

Ephesians 4:7-12 – The Gifts For Unity.

Ephesians 4:13-16 – The Growth For Unity.

Thought Of The Passage: "The Church Exists For The Purpose Of Glorifying Jesus And To Be Brought To Maturity Through Truth And Love."

1. Verse 13 – Growing In Christ-Likeness

2. Verse 14 – Growing In Stability

3. Verse 15 – Growing In Truth Through Love

4. Verse 16 – Growing In Harmony

1. Verse 13 – Growing In Christ-Likeness:

Ephesians 4:13 – "until we all attain to the unity of the faith," – Paul left off with teaching that God gave gifted men to the Church for unity – Ephesians 4:11-12.

Why Did God Give The Church Gifted Men? 3 reasons:

- 1. "for the equipping of the saints,"** – To instruct the believers; it was used of a person "setting a broken bone, or a fisherman mending a torn net."
- 2. "for the work of service,"** – Believers are instructed and taught so they can get the job done in the church.
- 3. "to the building up of the body of Christ;"** – Through this, the church will mature; will grow.

The Purpose Of The Church – The Church exists for Jesus Christ to glorify Him; To be brought to maturity; To take on His image and likeness in unity; To grow in truth through His love.

Growth In Jesus Christ Through Unity Is Described In 4 Ways:

- 1. Growth In Our Belief And Thinking In The Faith:** “until we all attain to the unity of the faith,” – “until” – Paul has just spoken of the gifts that Jesus Christ has given to the Church; this word “until” tells us that they will exist until God’s purposes are fulfilled of unity and maturity.

“attain” – “come to meet;” unity of the faith; this is not the faith that saves us but he is speaking of the “Christian Faith.” Jude 1:3 – He speaks here of the mind, growing in the teachings of unity.

Ephesians 4:3

- 2. Growth In Our Personal Relationship With Jesus:** “of the knowledge of the Son of God,” – This speaks of the heart. We not only need to grow in unity in the doctrines of the faith, but to grow in our personal knowledge of Jesus, Philipians 3:10.

- 3. Growth To Spiritual Adulthood: “to a mature man,”** – or K.J.V. say’s a “perfect man.”

“mature man” – “full grown, adult, of full age;” Growing in maturity.

2 Timothy 2:22

When babies are tired they sometimes won’t sleep.

Babies cry become they are hungry. Sometimes they won’t eat.
1 Peter 2:2

- 4. Growth In Our Maturity That Resembles And Glorifies Christ:** “to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” – This is reaching a level of maturity; Christ-likeness, Colossians 1:28-29.

2. Verse 14 – Growing In Stability:

Ephesians 4:14 – “As a result,” – “we have spiritually grown up, taken on the image of Jesus.” “we are no longer to be children,” – “children” – “an infant, little child, one that can’t talk or walk.”

We should be children in our humility and innocence, but not in ignorance or instability!

When you have babies, you have all sorts of action.

Babies speak their minds.

Babies have a short attention span.

"tossed here and there by waves," – The baby Christian is like a little boat that is caught in the midst of a storm at sea.

"carried about by every wind of doctrine," – "carried;" Literally, "swung around"

"by the trickery of men," – Literally, "dice playing;" Children are so easily tricked, they are so naive.

"by craftiness in deceitful scheming;" – Literally, "tending to the system of error after the wiles of error; a deliberate planning or system. Of error includes the idea of deceit or delusion."

3. Verse 15 – Growing In Truth Through Love:

Ephesians 4:15 – "but speaking the truth" – Is a hard phrase to say in English. It would literally be, "Truth-ing it;" Not only speaking about truth, but the whole lifestyle.

"speaking the truth in love," – Important combination.

Truth without love is brutality, but love without truth is hypocrisy!

Proverbs 27:6

"we are to grow up in all aspects into Him," – Holy Spirit is truth and love.

John 16:13

Galatians 5:22-23

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you have the truth and the power to love.

"who is the head, even Christ," – Jesus is the head.

4. Verse 16 – Growing In Harmony:

Ephesians 4:16 – “from whom the whole body,” – Paul first focuses on the whole Church.

“being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies,” – Paul now uses anatomy to give a picture of the body of Christ. Every part of the body is needed.

“according to the proper working of each individual part,” – Paul now focuses on the individual Christian.

“causes the growth of the body” – The body grows as the individual grows. They grow by the Word and the ministry of each other. Isolated Christians don't grow and they cannot minister.

“for the building up of itself in love.” – He started in the beginning with love.

Ephesians 4:2 – “showing forbearance to one another in love,”

Ephesians 4:15 – “but speaking the truth in love,”

Ephesians 4:16 – “building up of itself in love.”

Application:

1. Growing In Christ-Likeness – The Church Exists For Jesus Christ To Glorify Him; To Be Brought To Maturity; To Take On His Image And Likeness In Unity; To Grow In Truth Through His Love.
2. Growing In Stability – We Should Be Children In Our Humility And Innocence, But Not In Ignorance Or Instability.
3. Growing In Truth With Love – Truth Without Love Is Brutality, But Love Without Truth Is Hypocrisy.
4. Growing In Harmony – Becoming Whole Takes Place Through Each Believer Being Fitted And Held Together By Other Believers. Each Individual Part Causes The Growth Of The Body For The Building Up Of Itself In Love.