

IN EPHESIANS

CHRIST



Lesson #36

Grace & GIFTS

(PART 4)

(Ephesians 4:7-16)

Are We Walking Worthy of Our Calling? (Ephesians 4:2)

Are We Endeavoring to Keep the Unity of the Spirit? (Eph 4:3-6)

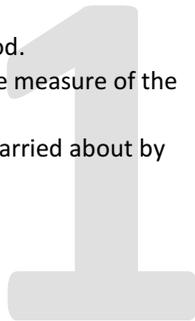
Are We Using the Grace Given Us within a Local Body of Christ? (Ephesians 4:7-11)

- Spiritual gifts are like DNA - each Christian is given grace (gift) to fulfill God's purpose for him/her within a local body of believers - 1 Peter 4:10-11.
- No two gifts are identical. God gifts each member to profit all the other members of the body. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)



The Purpose of God's Gifts (Ephesians 4:12-16)

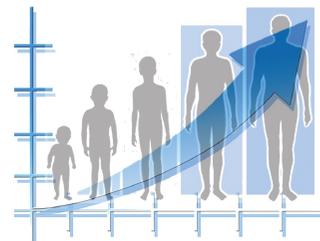
- (vv. 11-12) Paul specifically points to evangelists and pastor-teachers, but God's purpose for gifting all Christians is for the same purpose of all.
- (v. 12) Equipping of the saints for the WORK of SERVICE.
- (v. 12) Edifying (building up) of the Body of Christ - the Church.
- (v. 13) Growing into the unity of **the** faith.
- (v. 13) Growing into the knowledge of the Son of God.
- (vv. 13, 15, 16) Growing into a "**perfect man**", to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
- (v. 14) SO THAT, the Body is not tossed to and fro, carried about by every wind of doctrine by deceit.



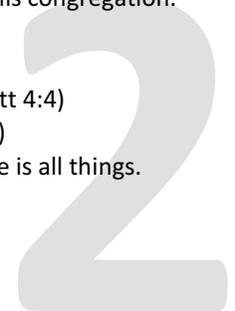
How Must We Grow Like Any Body Grows

- ① Crave the pure milk of Scripture. (1 Peter 2:2-3)
 - ② Take in the solid meat of Scripture. (Hebrews 5:12-14)
 - ③ Keep ourselves clean. (1 John 3:3; 2 Cor 7:1; 2 Peter 3:14; Heb 12:14)
 - ④ Live circumspectly. (Ephesians 5:15-17; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 6:18) Knowing and living the will of God.
 - ⑤ Be disciplined. Doing God's will. (1 Cor 9:26-27; Matt 7:21; 1 John 2:17)
 - ⑥ Exercise - DO. (1 Timothy 4:7-8; James 1:22; Matthew 7:21-25; 12:50; 28:20; Luke 6:46-48; 11:28; Philippians 4:8; Hebrews 5:14; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 John 2:3-4)
 - ⑦ Work toward **the** goal. (2 Corinthians 5:9; John 6:27)
 - THE GOAL: Ephesians 4:12-13.
- ★ **A body by definition does everything together.** A Body of Christ, a Church, not individual members, can never achieve growth unless it "drinks, eats, cleans, lives, disciplines exercises and works" ALL TOGETHER.
- Consider only one hand keeping itself clean!

Growing Into A "Perfect Man" (Ephesians 4:13)



- PERFECT is always GOD's standard. (Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Genesis 17:1)
- PERFECT is the standard that each and every Christians must **strive** for. (Philippians 3:12-14; 2:15; Luke 1:5-6; 2 Peter 3:14).
- PERFECT is what each and every Christians is suppose to pray for their fellow brothers and sisters in the Body. (Colossians 4:12; 1:9;)
- PERFECT is the standard that a pastor presses on his congregation. (Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 6:1)
- God's tools for the growth of His Body:
 - ① His Word. (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14; Matt 4:4)
 - Doing God's will. (James 1:22; John 4:34)
 - Equipping: leading from sin to obedience is all things.
 - ② Prayer (Colossians 4:12; Acts 6:4; 2:42, 47)
 - ③ Testing (James 1:2-4)



- ④ Suffering (1 Peter 1:6-7; 5:10; Philippians 3:10; Psalm 119:71, 75)
- ⑤ Discipline (Hebrews 12:10-11)

The Father's Will: That His Children Mature (Ephesians 4:14)

- We are “born-again” or “born from above” as the children of God BUT God expects (commands) us to GROW UP - to mature.
 - ★ See 2 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 5:13; 1 Corinthians 13:11
- “children” here is νήπιος nepios {nay'-pee-os} which means “an infant, little child, childish, untaught, unskilled”.
- Little children are easily misled, easily deceived, easily convinced.
- Little children will put **anything** into their mouths! They do not know what things are dangerous and what things are good.
- Maturing children “eat” healthy food provided by their Father.
 - (Job 23:12) “I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”
 - (Hebrews 5:14) “Solid food is for the mature.”
 - (John 7:37-38) “If anyone thirsts, let him come to ME and drink.”
 - (John 6:53-58) “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. . . He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”
 - (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4) “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”
- The solid food here is SOLID DOCTRINE! Maturing children are STUDENTS of GOD’S WORD! We live in an age where **many** ignore ALL Scripture which is profitable for DOCTRINE and no longer “endure sound doctrine”. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:3-4)
- A maturing child of God is “strong, the word of God **abides** in them, and they **overcome** the wicked one”. (1 John 2:14)
- The “infants” are easily tricked and deceived by the schemes of men used by Satan. (Ephesians 4:14; 6:11; 2 Cor 11:13-15; 11:3; 4:2; Col 2:8)
- We live in the most technological age of history when it comes to tools for studying the Word of God and yet we are living in the most ignorant time of the Church!! Consider Luke 12:48.
- “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine” - BECAUSE they are NOT ANCHORED in SOLID DOCTRINE.

Living TRUTH (Ephesians 4:15)

- “speaking the truth” is ἀληθεύω aletheuo {al-ayth-yoo'-o} means “to speak, deal, and act truthfully.”
- A maturing child of God LIVES BY and IN the truth of God’s Word. The Word of God abides in them and DIRECTS them in ALL that they do. (John 8:31)
- The children of God are DOERS of the Father’s Word and PRACTICE (have the lifestyle of) His righteousness. (James 1:22; 1 John 3:1-10)
- The motivating factor for living TRUTHFUL lives is LOVE for the Father. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:1-3)
- As THE BODY live TRUTHFUL LIVES it GROWS into the “a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Eph 4:13)

It Takes Every Part! (Ephesians 4:16)

- Spiritual maturity ONLY comes within a Body of Christ where EVERY part (member) is doing their part so that their brothers and sister can mature. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) **EVERY MEMBER OF THE BODY IS NECESSARY! (1 Corinthians 12:22)**
- According to the NEW TESTAMENT, the Word of God, a person CANNOT grow and mature as a Christian apart from being an active serving member of a local church.
- According to the NEW TESTAMENT, the Word of God, a person CANNOT really call themselves a Christian without being an active serving member of a local church. (1 Corinthians 12:14-22)
- We live in a dangerous time where we allow the world to dictate our time.
- We live in a dangerous time where many so-called Christians believe that they can be the Christian they want to be despite what God’s Word say.
- “jointed and knit together” shows the intimacy of the “togetherness” of the each member of the Body of Christ.

Practically Speaking

- ① We must grow as any body grows. (Page 2) It is God’s will that His children grow. (Consider Matthew 7:21; 12:50)
- ② We must strive for the goal - PERFECT MAN. (Ephesians 4:13)
- ③ We must live and speak the truth. (Ephesians 4:15)
- ④ We must grow together. (Ephesians 4:16)