

GOD WANTS US TO GROW UP EPHESIANS – PART 7

Introduction – God’s grace enables spiritually dead men to live through Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than a newborn baby. But no one likes an adult that is a big baby.

A. Make Every Effort to Maintain the Unity of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:1-6

1. The division of believers into hundreds of denominations competing with one another is a scandal. So are the petty schisms within congregations.
2. Unity requires all of us to be completely humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another through the bonds of peace.
3. One body – Ephesians 1:22-23
4. One baptism – Ephesians 5:25-27 and Acts 2:38

B. Grace Gifts to Equip Everyone

Ephesians 4:7-13

1. God has given us different, but essential gifts.
2. Christ conquered Death and Satan so that he might rule the whole universe, beginning with us as his agents on earth.
3. Leaders are to equip every Christian for their ministry.
4. The goal is maturity as defined by the fullness of Christ.

C. Church Growth

Ephesians 4:14-16

1. By speaking the truth in love to each other we can grow spiritually into a mature Body of Christ.
2. When we mature we are able to build one another up rather than tear each other down.

3. Evangelism is not an individual effort, but requires each one to do their part in a harmonious way.

Conclusion – The health of any congregation depends on creating an environment where people are real and supportive of one another. We must be open to being better equipped for our ministry in Christ. There is no "they" only a healthy "we" when it comes to congregational life and growth.