

Message Series:

Membership Has Its Privileges: Walking with Christ A Study of Ephesians 4-6

Message for Sunday, April 11:

Becoming Spiritual Adults

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 4:14-16 (ESV)

Today's Main Thought: The ultimate purpose of the spiritual gifts given to the body of Christ and equipping the saints is to grow spiritually mature believers of Jesus Christ.

The building up of the body of Jesus Christ leads to unified, spiritually mature saints.

- Maturing saints must **avoid religious volatility** and deceit (Ephesians 4: *compare verse 14 to 11*; Genesis 3:5; Matthew 11:25; 1 Corinthians 3:1; Galatians 4:3; Hebrews 5:13).
 - Unsound doctrine
 - Whimsical teachings taught by cunning people

- Maturing saints must be **real** or truthful in both conduct and speech (v. 15 *compare to verse 13*; Galatians 4:16; 5: 22-23; John 3:21; Romans 1:18).
 - Show and speak the truth with love (*see John 17:13-26*).
 - Rather than remaining immature, grow up in **every way** in Christ (*see Ephesians 2:21*).

Getting Started

Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What is God's ultimate purpose in giving gifts to his people? What does it mean to speak "the truth in love" (refer to v. 15)? How is this different than just speaking the truth?

Digging Deeper

List one way in which you need to become spiritually mature.

Discuss with your pack partner or 710 Group the manner in which you are dealing with this challenge in your spiritual life.

Living It Out

Discover your spiritual gift(s). If you are unaware of your gifts, please take the gift assessment, Uniquely You. Please contact Pastor Tom McElroy to obtain a gift assessment.

Next Week: Ephesians 4:17-24

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