

SERIES: Ephesians
The Spiritual Maturity of the Church
Ephesians 4:12-16

Healthy Churches are Growing Churches

- There is no correlation between the size and health of the church.
 - A church can be small and **strong**.
 - A church can be big and **weak**.
- Spiritual growth is normal and necessary for the Church.
 - Christ is the **Head** of the church.
 - The church is the **body** of Christ.
 - We are **members** of one another.

How Does a Healthy Church Grow?

- The church grows through spiritual **gifts**. (11)
- The church grows by mutual service. (12)
 - Pastors who take too much responsibility for ministry work stunt the church's growth.
 - Every member of the body is a **minister** of Christ.
- The church grows for eternal **glory** (13)
 - Goal #1: Spiritual **unity** (Eph. 4:3)
 - There is a unity we are to **maintain**.
 - There is also a unity we must **attain**.
 - The closer we get to **Jesus**, the closer we will get to one another.
 - Goal #2: Spiritual **maturity** (1 Cor. 13:11; Col. 1:28)
 - Revival breaks out when lost people are **born again**.
 - The fires of revival cool off when the born-again do not **grow up**.
 - Goal #3: Spiritual **conformity** (Rom. 8:29)
 - The body is governed by Christ.
 - The body grows to maturity in Christ.

What Does a Growing Church Look Like?

- A growing church should be doctrinally **sound**.
 - Christians are to be childlike, not **childish**. (Heb. 5:12-14)
 - The church needs to know what NOT to say **Amen** to.
 - The church needs to know which preachers NOT to listen to.
 - The church needs to know how to identify **false** teaching.
- A growing church should be spiritually **mature**.
 - Truth without love is **brutality**.
 - Love without truth is **hypocrisy**.
- A growing church should be mutually **equipped**.
 - The body grows when its individual members grow.
 - Members grow as they feed on the word and minister to each other.

What Does a Growing Christian Look Like?

- **Show** up.
- **Join** up.
- **Step** up.
- **Speak** up.
- **Grow** up.
- **Build** up.
- **Look** up.

