

Why Grow up?

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Introduction

1. Text Ephesians 4:11-16
2. The church was designed by God, it was not an accident. Ephesians 3:10-11
3. The church are those who are called out. Ephesians 2:1-2; 5:23
4. The church is the body of Christ. Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23
5. The church is a living organism, 1 Peter 2:5
6. The church then will either grow and develop or deteriorate and die.
7. God has given a formula whereby the church can live and prosper to the glory of God. Ephesians 3:20-21 and edification of the saints. Ephesians 4:16

II Discussion

1. Fundamental commitment Ephesians 4:1-4
 - A. Church membership is a calling. Ephesians 4:1-3 through the Gospel 2 Thessalonians 2:14
 - B. The church must be first in one's life. Matthew 6:33
 - C. One must be so committed to Christ that Christ lives within. Galatians 2:20
 - D. The church is not a social or civic club; it must be the center
2. Unity the climate for growth Ephesians 4:1-6
 - A. A church divided against itself cannot stand.
 - B. We are told about what to unit on:
 - i. One body – unity of organization
 - ii. One Spirit unity of revelation
 - iii. One hope - unity of aspiration
 - iv. One Lord - unity of authority
 - v. One faith – unity of doctrine
 - vi. One baptism unity of practice
 - vii. One God – unity of worship
3. Truth the source of Growth Ephesians 4:15
 - A. Just having the truth is not enough. John 17:17
 - B. The truth must be preached in love. Ephesians 4:15
 - C. How would you like folks to speak to you? Matthew 7:12
4. Involvement actual growth Ephesians 4:16
 - A. This is a job for everyone not a select few. If the few which ones?
 - B. Everyone has a job to do, can you see what needs to be done?
 - C. There is work to do. Vs 12
5. Influence brings growth Ephesians 4:17-32
 - A. Influence is important.
 - B. They are not to walk and they had not learned Christ that way, and they are to put off some things. Vs 17, 20, 22,
 - C. They are to be renewed in their mind Vs 23; put on the new man Vs 24
 - D. This is what that means:
 - i. Vs 25 speak the truth;
 - ii. Vs 26 don't be angry;

- iii. Vs 27 don't give the devil any room
- iv. Vs 28 Don't steal
- v. Vs 29 speak the truth
- vi. Vs 30 Don't grieve the Holy Spirit
- vii. Vs 31 Don't be bitter
- viii. Vs 32 be kind

III Conclusion

1. If the church is going to grow it must be God way!
2. But what is church growth?
 - A. Numbers? Large Contribution?
 - B. When members become more Christ like Philippians 2:5
3. God's plan will work
4. Are you in God's plan or are you rebelling against it?
5. Why not get into God's plan and start working today.
6. God can use workers Luke 10:2

Sources: Preach for a year 3#; Glory in the church W.T. Hamilton; Heavenly Habitations
Sermon outlines by Tom Holland