

Ephesians 4:1-16 – Church Vision: Growing in Christ

CONSIDER: We've all been children at one point ... so, in what ways did your parents provide for and encourage your growth? If they hadn't (or maybe they didn't), how would you feel? God has provided all you need to grow – what does that say about His love and care for you? What does it suggest about what is at the heart of His desires for us as His children?

1. **v7-10** are verses that appear difficult. But they talk about: Jesus descending ... of course, first to earth, then dying and being buried, and then ascending to heaven. What encouragement might the fact that Jesus lived on earth have for us as we seek to live as His children? What encouragement might His resurrection have? And what encouragement is there in His ascension and reign?
2. It's amazing to think that Jesus ascended and reigns for our good and growth!! What things do you struggle against the most in your growth in Him? How ought the fact that He reigns and 'fills the Universe' help us? If it is possible, share some areas where you struggle and pause to pray for one another, that we might know Jesus ruling in these struggles.
3. What is the surprising key provision of God for our growth? (**v11-13**) What does this mean about how I should see Church? How might our attitudes to church need to change?
4. How does (**v11-13**) suggest that the growth of the church is linked with the leadership and teaching in the church? How is everyone linked in to this? What does it mean for the church if I'm not involved in service in the church? How does this relate to **1 Cor 12**?
5. Why, then, is Unity such a vital call at the start of this passage (**v1-6**)? Look at the attributes that contribute to unity in **v2-3**. Explain how these particular things help unity. How might they apply in our experience?
6. What are the great promises in **v14-16** for those who grow in Jesus? How might the difficulties in **v14** be seen in our lives? What does spiritual growth do that changes these?
7. What does it mean in **v15** to “grow up into Him who is the head?”. What does this look like in your life? Do you want that?

CONTINUE TO APPLY & RESPOND:

- If there was one thing you could highlight that God is challenging you about to pray over / change / seek His help in, what is it?
- What can others pray for you to help you respond to His challenge?

Don't forget to leave time to share and pray together.

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