

Ephesians:  
Chapter 4:1-16  
Growing up, Maturity

Pastor Cory Johnson  
Sunday, August 1, 2021  
Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-13, 15-16  
1 Corinthians 8:1, Ephesians 3:17

Ephesians: Chapter 4:1-16 Growing up, Maturity

<sup>4</sup> You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. <sup>5</sup> You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, Ephesians 4:4–5

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness. Ephesians 4:6

Jesus is the center of the universe. Specifically, Jesus has become the center of your personal universe.

<sup>7</sup> But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. Ephesians 4:7

<sup>11</sup> He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher <sup>12</sup> to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church,

<sup>13</sup> until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. Ephesians 4:11–13

God made you and gifted you uniquely.  
Your strengths are needed for the whole to be strong.  
Unity in the Church is the result.

Maturity is needed.  
Seeing immaturity in the mirror is difficult.

The Goal of maturity is church unity.  
God is a tri unity = Trinity

<sup>15</sup> God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do.

<sup>16</sup> He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love. Ephesians 4:15–16

One of the dangers of childish immaturity is that you are an easy victim.  
Maturing in truth and love keeps us safe and equips us to serve others.

Growing up in God is like riding a bike, you have to keep moving forward or you will fall over.

Love is the attribute of maturity and the sign that I am not living in the me-centered universe but in Jesus' universe.

<sup>1</sup> But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.  
1 Corinthians 8:1

<sup>17</sup> I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love. Ephesians 3:17

“The Christian is the only adult mammal that expects others to feed it.” - Chris Brown

### **Ephesians 4:1–16 (The Message)**

<sup>1</sup> In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. <sup>2</sup> And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, <sup>3</sup> alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences. <sup>4</sup> You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. <sup>5</sup> You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness. <sup>7</sup> But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. <sup>8</sup> The text for this is, He climbed the high mountain, He captured the enemy and seized the booty, He handed it all out in gifts to the people. <sup>9</sup> Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? <sup>10</sup> And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, <sup>11</sup> filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher <sup>12</sup> to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, <sup>13</sup> until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. <sup>14</sup> No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. <sup>15</sup> God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. <sup>16</sup> He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.