

# Be Church, Part 5

## Education Of Body Ephesians 4:13-16

### A Blueprint For A Healthy Church

Eph 4	Principle	Action
1-2	Dedication Of Individuals	Character Penetrates
3-6	Unification Of Body	Church Integrates
7-10	Implementation Of Gifts	Spirit Emanates
11-12a	Education In Ministry	Pastor Educates
<b>12b-16</b>	<b>Edification Of Body</b>	<b>Maturity Culminates</b>

#### Spiritual Maturity Involves:

- Putting Away Childish Things (1 Cor 13:11)
- Comprehending Life Through A Spiritual Lens (1 Cor 14:20)
- Feeding On The Solid Food Of Scripture (Heb 5:11-14)
- Overcoming Evil Not Succumbing To It (1 Jn 2:14)

#### 1. Focusing On What Unites Us, Not What Divides Us (13a)

<sup>13a</sup> *until we all attain to the unity of the faith*

#### 2. Knowing Christ Intimately (Not Just Intellectually)

<sup>13b</sup> *and of the knowledge of the Son of God,*

How Can We Get To Know Christ Better?

- Read Bible as a love letter
- Develop an empathy with Christ as you read of His life
- Pray as you would converse with a parent or close friend
- Study theology with an amazement of who God is

#### 3. Finding Our Completeness In Christ

<sup>13c</sup> *to a perfect (mature) man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*

#### 4. Filtering Teaching Through Scripture (Eph 4:14)

<sup>14</sup> *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

- The Word Is Our Discernment: The Immature Is Religiously Gullible
- The Word Is Our Anchor: The Immature Becomes Agitated With Unbiblical Religious Claims
- The Word Is Our Authority: The Immature Is Spun About By Religious Confusion
- The Word Is Our Reliability: The Immature Is Impressed With Tricks Over Truth

## 5. Communicating Truth With Love (Eph 4:15a)

*<sup>15</sup>but, speaking the truth in love*

## 6. Committing To The Growth Of Others (15b-16)

*<sup>15b</sup> may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

Aspect	Attitude	Action
Social	Cooperation	<b>Acceptance:</b> Accept each other on the basis of faith, not personality
Devotional	Concentration	<b>Adoration:</b> Pursue a personal knowledge of Christ, not merely factual
Vocational	Completion	<b>Attainment:</b> Our fulfillment is found in Christ, not in personal accomplishments
Intellectual	Conviction	<b>Assurance:</b> Find security in God's truth, not man's religion
Relational	Communication	<b>Attestation:</b> Communicate both truth and love, not deceitful manipulation
Interpersonal	Collaboration	<b>Alliance:</b> Commit your to each other's growth, not just personal happiness

*Are you committed to the growth of others ...*

- Fully committing yourself to a local church (membership)?
- By participating in a fellowship or small group ministry?
- Exercising your spiritual gifts in your local church?
- In your prayer life?
- Encouraging one person at a time (making yourself available for discipleship or counseling)?
- Through the giving of time and money?

## Conclusion:

**A mature congregation knows how:**

- **to unite in Christ** when the world is divisive
- **to stand on God's Word** when the world offers no ultimate truth
- **to strive for Christlike** because character matters more than worldly success
- **to speak the truth with love** because being over critical or a pushover is unbalanced
- **to feed each other in Christ** instead of waiting to be fed