

# Growing Together

## Come Together #2 – Father's Day – June 18, 2023 – Ephesians 4:11-16

Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> And he [Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### We can grow up together into the fullness of Christ by:

#### 1. Being equipped for ministry.

2 Timothy 3:17 (ESV) That the man of God may be **complete**, equipped for every good work.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (ESV) Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

#### 2. Being equipped for maturity.

1 Corinthians 14:20 (ESV) Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

Colossians 1:28 (ESV) Him [Christ] we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone **mature** in Christ.

James 1:2-4 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything.

#### 3. Being equipped for unity.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT) I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, **united** in thought and purpose.

Ephesians 4:2-3 (GW) Be humble and gentle in every way. Be patient with each other and lovingly accept each other. Through the peace that ties you together, do your best to maintain the **unity** that the Spirit gives.