

The Church and Her Adults
Ephesians 4:11-16
John Henschen

Big Idea

The church maintains unity through maturity.

Outline:

Mature Christians:

I. Embrace their Gift (v11-12)

II. Pursue the Goal (v13-14)

1. Elevating the natural family above the church family is damaging to many in the church

“If we don’t put the family of God first, we can stunt the ministry of the church by inadvertently ignoring members of our church family. Most adults will marry, but many will not. And those who do are marrying much later in life, often leaving a decade or more of single adulthood between adolescence and matrimony. There are also brothers and sisters among us who struggle with same-sex attraction. A Christian community that privileges the natural family over the family of God, and which extols marriage as the epitome of human relationships, has nothing to offer those who must commit to celibacy for a season—or even for a lifetime—in order to live in a manner pleasing to the Lord.”

- Joseph Hellerman

2. Jesus addressed those idolizing the natural family in the Gospels

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 14:26

While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. 48 But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” 49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 12:46-50

Personal Maturity Chart:

		INVESTMENT
	INFLUENCE	INFLUENCE
LEARNING	LEARNING	LEARNING
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3

III. Care for the Body (v15-16)

4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **Romans 12:4-5**

O Praise the Name

I cast my mind to Calvary
 Where Jesus bled and died for me.
 I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.
 My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
 They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.
 The entrance sealed by heavy stone
 Messiah still and all alone

O praise the name of the Lord **our** God
 O praise His name forever more
 For endless days **we** will sing Your praise
 Oh Lord, oh Lord **our** God
 (CHORUS)

Then on the third at break of dawn,
 The Son of heaven rose again.
 O trampled death where is your sting?
 The angels roar for Christ the King

CHORUS

He shall return in robes of white,
 The blazing Son shall pierce the night.
 And I will rise **among the saints**,
 My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

CHORUS

Oh Lord, oh Lord **our** God
 Oh Lord, oh Lord **our** God