

Sermon Title: Grow Up

Sermon Series: Ephesians – Who We Are

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



Ephesians 1-3: Who we are in Christ

Ephesians 4-6: How to behave

There is no hope of lasting change without Jesus.

Grace – God’s unconditional love

If God’s grace is the priority of your life, you will _____ in Christ.

Ephesians 4:1-16 ESV

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one

faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 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, 14 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. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 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.

Ephesians 4:9-10 ESV

9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Jesus gives you His power.

If you've placed your faith in Jesus Christ, God is calling you to grow up.

John 12:24 ESV

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Romans 6:1-4 ESV

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

If we lean into God's grace, how will God's grace grow us up?

Ephesians 4:1-6 ESV

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

First Ingredient of Unity Humility and Gentleness

Philippians 2:3 ESV

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Galatians 5:23 ESV

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Mark 8:34-35 ESV

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

Second Ingredient of Unity

Patience

Colossians 1:11 ESV

11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

Romans 5:8 ESV

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Third Ingredient of Unity

Bearing with one another in love

Romans 12:9-21 ESV

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if

your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Fourth Ingredient of Unity

Eagerness

Ephesians 4:3 ESV

3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

John 17: 20-21 ESV

20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.”

Ephesians 4:4-6 ESV

4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

If we lean into God's grace, how will God's grace grow us up?

Ephesians 4:7-8 ESV

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 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, 14 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. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 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.

People are gifts given by Christ.

If each person had the same gifts from God, we would have sameness, not unity.

If God's grace is the priority of your life, you will grow up in the diversity of Christ.

Trust that God has equipped you to make His grace priority in your life.

As you do, you'll grow up in the unity and diversity of Christ.

Open in Prayer

Group Discussion Questions:

1. What does your relationship with God look like? How do you grow in your relationship with God?

2. In the sermon, Pastor Mike said, "There is no hope of lasting change without Jesus." What does that mean in your life?

3. How does God's grace enable you to grow up in Christ?

4. Read Ephesians 4:1-16. Is there anything you find interesting, surprising, or troubling about this passage? If so, what?

5. When referring to Ephesians 4:1-6, what does it mean to grow up in unity?

6. Read Romans 12:9-21. What does this text say about bearing with one another in love?

7. According to Ephesians 4:11-16, what do you think it looks like to grow up in diversity?

8. How is God challenging you to take a step of faith and to grow up in Christ?

Close in prayer.