

Ephesians 4:11-16

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.

Discussion/Journal Questions

What are two things you hope to accomplish this year?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16. How does the theme of “growth” show up in this passage? What are the different words used to describe growth?

What is the goal of spiritual maturity? What does a spiritually mature Christian look like?

In the sermon, Sam mentioned four stages of spiritual growth: infant, adolescent, adult, and parent. In your own words, how would you describe each of these stages of growth?

In verse 14, what is a unique danger for spiritual children?

What does “speaking the truth in love” mean? What happens when you have truth without love? What about love without truth?

In the sermon, Sam said, “Our spiritual maturity, or lack therefor, affects those around us. Our presence or absence, leaves a mark on everyone else.” Do you agree or disagree with this? Why?

In verse 16, what do you think Paul means when he writes, “when each part is working properly”?

How can you make community a bigger part of your life in 2022?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?