

**Sermon Notes February 15**  
**ESTABLISHED: GROWING UP INTO CHRIST**

---

**I. GOD GIVES LEADERS TO GROW PEOPLE (vv.11-12)**

Church, God gave pastors and teachers

- not to entertain you
- not to manage your emotions
- not to chase down every conflict

but to equip you.

And what is equipping?

Equipping is teaching you how to respond like Christ when you are offended.

Equipping is helping you stop saying "they" and start asking "Lord, fix me."

Paul makes it clear in the Greek structure that leaders equip the saints

so the saints do the ministry

That means:

You are responsible for your growth.

---

**II. MATURITY IS THE GOAL — NOT ACTIVITY (v.13)**

You can be busy and immature.

You can serve and still be offended.

You can preach and still be prideful.

You can tithe and still be insecure.

Paul says the goal is:

- unity of faith
- knowledge of Christ
- fullness of Christ

Not church motion.

Christlike formation.

If I had stayed offended, there would be no unity.

If he had stayed selfish, there would be no generosity.

If we all stayed "I," there would be no "us."

---

**III. IMMATURE FAITH IS UNSTABLE FAITH (v.14)**

Paul says children are tossed.

Children react.

Children sulk.

Children quit.

Children blame.

Mature believers:

- process pain
- forgive quicker
- own their part
- stay planted

"Who are you still mad at?"

Doctrinal discernment isn't just about theology —

it's about knowing how the gospel applies when you are hurt.

If grace saved you, grace must sustain you.

---

#### **IV. TRUTH AND LOVE BUILD TOGETHER (v.15)**

Some people hide behind love. Some hide behind truth.

Truth without love wounds. Love without truth weakens.

But maturity speaks truth in love.

That means:

- You don't ignore sin.
- But you don't weaponize it either.
- You don't avoid hard conversations.
- But you don't enjoy them either.

Mature churches don't avoid tension. They grow through it.

---

#### **V. EVERY MEMBER MUST GROW (v.16)**

The body grows when every part does its work.

That includes:

- the offended part
- the disappointed part
- the misunderstood part
- the hurt part

Stability comes when the church grows up, not just grows bigger.

Maturity is measured by how we respond when we are hurt.

If one part shuts down, the whole body limps.

And some of us have been limping because we are still holding something.