

FULLY ALIVE

“FULLY ALIVE” SERIES || PART 1 OF 4

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EPHESIANS 4:11-16 NIV

...Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,¹² to equip his people for works of service, **so that the body of Christ may be built up**¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to **the whole measure of the fullness of Christ**.¹⁴ Then **we will no longer be infants**, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵ Instead, **speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ**.¹⁶ From him the whole body, **joined and held together** by every supporting ligament, **grows and builds itself up** in love, as **each part does its work**.

EPHESIANS 4 NLT

...we will be **mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ**...we will speak the truth in love, **growing in every way more and more like Christ**...He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, **so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love**.

EPHESIANS 4 “THE MESSAGE” PARAPHRASE

...Christ’s body, the church...**fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ**... His very breath and blood flow through us, **nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love**.

GO “_____” THIS YEAR

1. RAMP UP WITH **DISCOVER TRACK**
2. CONNECT IN A **SMALL GROUP**
3. DIG DEEPER IN A **“GROW-U” CLASS**
4. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** ON THE DREAM TEAM
5. **PRAY ABOUT GIVING** IN DECEMBER’S LEGACY OFFERING

GO ALL IN..._____.

GO PUBLIC WITH THIS DECISION. AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU.

WHAT _____ THE FULL FUNCTION OF THE BODY? (MORE ON REVERSE)

FATIGUE

PAIN

PRIDE

IDOLATRY

INSECURITY

IGNORANCE

DECEPTION

RELIGION

WHAT DISABLES THE FULL FUNCTION OF THE BODY?

FATIGUE	We're burdened by debt. We over-work or medicate to cope - or unravel. We're over-busy, ruled by bad commitments. We're living with no vision, no boundaries, no balance. We're busy with pursuits of no eternal value. Our priorities are wrong.
PAIN	We've become defined by our bitterness or isolation. We struggle to trust again because of past hurts. We're fixating on our loss rather than our possibilities. We're occupied with survival rather than serving or celebration.
PRIDE	We're critical, assuming others have our bad motives. We're disappointed by the life that doesn't match what we think we deserve. Our relationships suffer; we won't honor or admit fault. We're unable to show passion for anything beyond ourselves.
IDOLATRY	We're addicted to our own comfort. We're preoccupied with our own achievement. We're unwilling to release our opinions. We're lazy – unwilling to serve but enamored with our own past sacrifices.
INSECURITY	We're striving for achievement or gain to compensate. We avoid others so we don't feel exposed. We're silenced by fear of failure and judgment. We self-protect. Our fear of loss drives us to selfish postures.
IGNORANCE	We don't yet grasp the high calling of Kingdom life. We've settled for lower life & are easily distracted by shallow time-wasting. We don't labor to pursue meaningful truth. We don't persist for depth. We're not acknowledging how much is eternally at stake.
DECEPTION	We're believing lies about God's motives. We're believing lies about the church & its leaders. We're believing lies about our own identity & calling. We're proudly celebrating our apathy or sinful patterns.
RELIGION	We're laboring to resist sin but still longing for it, rather than detesting it. We're trusting our own effort instead of God's grace. We're trying to improve our lives instead of denying them & surrendering. We haven't yet discovered a love relationship with God.

THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST...

- EPHESIANS 1:22–23
JESUS' SUPREMACY IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHURCH, INTENDED TO FULLY REPRESENT HIM.
- EPHESIANS 4:11–16
JESUS' BODY GROWS TO FULL MATURITY WITH LOVE, LOYALTY, GENEROSITY & THE GIFTS HE GAVE.
- EPHESIANS 5:29–30
IT IS NATURAL TO CARE FOR YOUR OWN BODY – THIS IS WHY JESUS CARES FOR THE CHURCH.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 10:16–17
COMMUNION CELEBRATES, IN PART, THE UNITY WE SHARE BECAUSE OF THE DEATH OF JESUS.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12–27
EVERY PART HAS VALUE & HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY PLACED BY GOD; WE STRIVE TO UNITE & LOVE.
- COLOSSIANS 1:18
JESUS IS THE HEAD OF HIS BODY, THE CHURCH. HE IS SUPREME IN ALL THINGS.
- COLOSSIANS 2:19
A VITAL CONNECTION WITH JESUS CAUSES THE BODY TO GROW.
- COLOSSIANS 3:15
A BODY SHOULD NOT BE AT WAR WITH ITSELF – WE ARE CALLED TO PEACE.
- ROMANS 12:4–5
BODY PARTS HAVE DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS. THEY ALL MATTER AND THEY BELONG TO EACH OTHER.