# I. <u>A mark of maturity is living like your life was bought at great price</u>.

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

#### II. <u>A mark of maturity is knowing you're not the main character.</u>

<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope<sup>,</sup> at your calling—<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

# III. <u>A mark of maturity is seeing our stories captured in Christ</u>.

<sup>7</sup>Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>For it says:

# When he ascended on high, he took the captives captive; he gave gifts to people.

<sup>9</sup> But what does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower parts of the earth?<sup>, 10</sup> The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things.

# IV. <u>A mark of maturity is learning that you don't know what you don't know</u>.

<sup>11</sup> And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

#### V. <u>A mark of maturity is the holy discontentment of remaining immature</u>.

<sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part. <sup>1</sup>

<u>Pastor's Challenge</u>: Identify one area of your walk that has a level of immaturity to it. Then memorize and pray this scripture over that area: "But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ." Ephesians 4:15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>Christian Standard Bible</u> (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020), Eph 4:1–16.