

THE STRATEGY: GROW Ephesians 4:11-32

Spiritual maturity is not reached by the passing of the years, but by obedience to the will of God. Some people mature into an understanding of God's will more quickly than others because they obey more readily; they more readily sacrifice the life of nature to the will of God.

- Oswald Chambers

I. The Means of Maturity

II. The Marks of Maturity

Getting to Know You

1. What is your proudest accomplishment?

Into the Bible

2. Matt didn't have time to cover all of Ephesians 4. Read Ephesians 4:1-7. The call for us to grow as individuals within the whole body is based on these verses. Paul lists seven things that are unique for the Christian. List those seven ones. Then, consider how our Christian life would be different if there were more than one of any of them.

3. The lists of positive qualities that we are to display as believers are consistent throughout the New Testament. Read 2 Peter 1:5-11. Compare those qualities with those that Paul lists in Ephesians 4. What does Peter say in verses 10-11 will be the outcome of living a life with these qualities?

Application

4. In Romans 6:1-14, Paul tells us where the power comes from to live in the way that he describes in Ephesians 4. Discuss with your group practical ways that you can live “dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (verse 11).

5. Romans 12:1-8 tells us that the renewing of our minds should lead us to humble service using the gifts that the Spirit gives to us. In preparation for the next two weeks, when we will focus on service in the body, talk in your group about how living the life that Paul calls us to in Ephesians 4 should bring us to be effective servants in the local church.

For Families

6. It is never too early for young believers to learn what their spiritual gifts are. Talk this week with your children about where they feel they could begin to serve in our church.