

Growing Up Together

Eph. 4:14-16

In 2:15 the church was described as a new unified group of Jews and Gentiles pictured as a “new man”; we are called to maintain this unity, and as a group to be growing up into a “mature man” (3:13).

Growing in maturity protects us from being duped. 14

- ❖ Immaturity = childlike (*infant*) gullibility. Childlikeness is often viewed positively (5:8, Lk. 10:21, Mk. 10:14, I Pt. 2:1,2), but can also be bad, I Cor. 3:1,2, 13:11, 14:20, Heb. 5:11-14).
- ❖ 14 begins with a purpose clause referring back to the giving of certain people to equip believers (4:11). These folks’ job is to help you mature and not be gullibly duped by bad teaching.

Growth depends on us being truthful in love. 15

- ❖ Being truthful (lit. *truthing*) = being genuine and includes speaking and is done in love in contrast with the tricksters.
- ❖ This is group-growth here, and Jesus again is the head, 1:22.

Growth requires every one of us to do our part. 16

- ❖ God is the one who both fits and holds together the church.
- ❖ When each person does their *measured* (4:7,13,16) part in love (4:2,15,16) the entire body grows / matures.



From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body . . .