

'Ready, steady, grow!'

MATURITY

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- What do you give the person with everything?

Maturity of an adult

- Growing up to adulthood (v13)
- Not staying as babies (v14) ¹

Maturity of the church

- Church concern (v12,13,15,16)
- Church growth

Maturity in UNDERSTANDING

- Spiritual adults: growing up in the faith (v13) ²
- Spiritual children: blown about by the wind and waves (v14)

Maturity in LIVING

- The fullness of Christ (v13) ³
- The will of God

Maturity in SERVING

- Ministry of Bible teachers (v11) ⁴
- Ministry of all believers (v12)



Discussion questions

What evidence could you point to of your commitment to growing in three-dimensional maturity - in understanding, living, and serving? What is your main take-home from this talk?

² Colossians 1:23; 2:7;

³ Colossians 1:19; Ephesians 3:19; 'walk': Ephesians 4:17; 5:2,8,15; 1 John 2:6; Romans 8:29

⁴ Luke 8:18

¹ John 3:7,3; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 3:1