

“How Christ Matures His Body” (Ephesians 4:11–16)

The Big Idea: By the truth spoken in love, the ascended Christ matures his body.

I. Working through This Text

a. Christ’s Spokesmen Gifted to His Saints (verses 11–12)

The Apostles and the Prophets: Ephesians 2:19–22; 3:4–6

The Evangelists

The Shepherds and Teachers: Acts 20:17–18, 28–30; 1 Peter 5:1–4; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 2:6

Verse 12: 1 Corinthians 3:5–17; 12:4–7

b. Christ’s Body United by a Mature Knowledge of Him (verse 13)

Colossians 1:27–29; 2:6–8

c. Christ’s People Matured beyond Childish Gullibility (verse 14)

d. Christ’s Truth Spoken in Mutual Love (verses 15–16)

Truth Spoken: Hebrews 3:12–14; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Mutual Love: Romans 12:4–16; 1 Peter 4:8–11

II. Living out This Text

a. Define church growth by maturity as well as numbers.

Luke 8:11–15; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Hebrews 5:7–6:3

b. Promote church growth by hearing and speaking Christ’s truth.

i. Church growth without God’s truth is church cancer.

2 Timothy 3:14–4:4; 2 Timothy 2:15–19

ii. Those who communicate truth must do so as recipients of truth.

You must have the truth before you can give it. (Colossians 3:16)

You must be quicker to hear than to speak. (James 1:18–25; 3:1–2)

c. Nurture church growth by the affections and actions of love.

i. Truth spoken without love is truth misspoken.

1 Corinthians 13:1–3

ii. Love gives the compassion and courage to speak truth.

Galatians 4:16–19

d. Expect church growth from Christ its head.

Ephesians 5:25–32; Matthew 16:13–19