

We All Grow Together
Ephesians 4:11-16
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Michael C. Smith

Intro: What is spiritual growth? How do I know I am experiencing it? Are there sure way to map out this type of growth? Does the Bible really mention growth in our relationship with Christ?

Interog: Spiritual growth starts with spiritual birth at salvation, and continues till death, hopefully. Before I share about spiritual growth I must ask you, “Are you spiritually alive?” The Bible tells us that we are all born in sin, and that only Jesus can forgive us of our sin, that is the starting place. In John 3, the Jewish teacher and leader Nicodemus was told to be born again. We must all be born again, growth starts at birth. You cannot grow life upon death, spiritual growth requires spiritual life.

After birth, growth happens in community. For us physically that community is called a family, for us spiritually, that community is called church. It is where we all come to get the nourishment we need. Now, I know the illustration breaks down on some points, but it is very accurate, and in keeping with scripture. If you are born again this message should encourage you and equip you for spiritual growth. If you are not spiritually alive, this message should lead you to make a decision for Christ today.

Read Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16

1. We all have a role to play vs 11-12.

Equipping of the saints – individual growth
Edifying of the body of Christ – corporate growth
The fig tree in my yard.

2. The signs of growth vs 13-14

Corporate growth – unity
Individual growth – fullness of Christ, a complete person 2 Tim 3:15-17
Things that block our growth vs 14- human wisdom,
Failure to grow is also clear to see, 1 Cor 3:2-3

3 Growth is toward Christ vs 15.

Grow up into Him – Christ
The words of John the Baptist – in John 3:30

4. Growth is in Christ vs 16

Like 1 Cor 12 and the puzzle piece, we all have a role to play, together we must all do our part.
Failure to contribute to the body results in dysfunctional growth.

Tools for Growth – Bible study, disciplines (prayer, tithing, fasting, solitude, etc.) fellowship (worship and social).

Conclusion: We must all grow, like a see that falls to the ground, growth is a part of what we do. But that does not guarantee maturity. In order to grow to maturity, we must all individually become like Christ, and corporately serve Christ. It is not about me, it is all about Him.