

1 CORINTHIANS

BE CHURCH

*Don't just come to church
Be the church.*

2025



A Blueprint For A Growing Church

Ephesians 4:1-16

Eph 4	Principle	Action
1-2	Dedication Of Individuals	Character Penetrates
3-6	Unification Of Body	Church Integrates
7-10	Implementation Of Gifts	Spirit Emanates
11-12	Education In Ministry	Pastor Educates
13-16	Edification Of Body	Maturity Culminates

Maturity Culminates

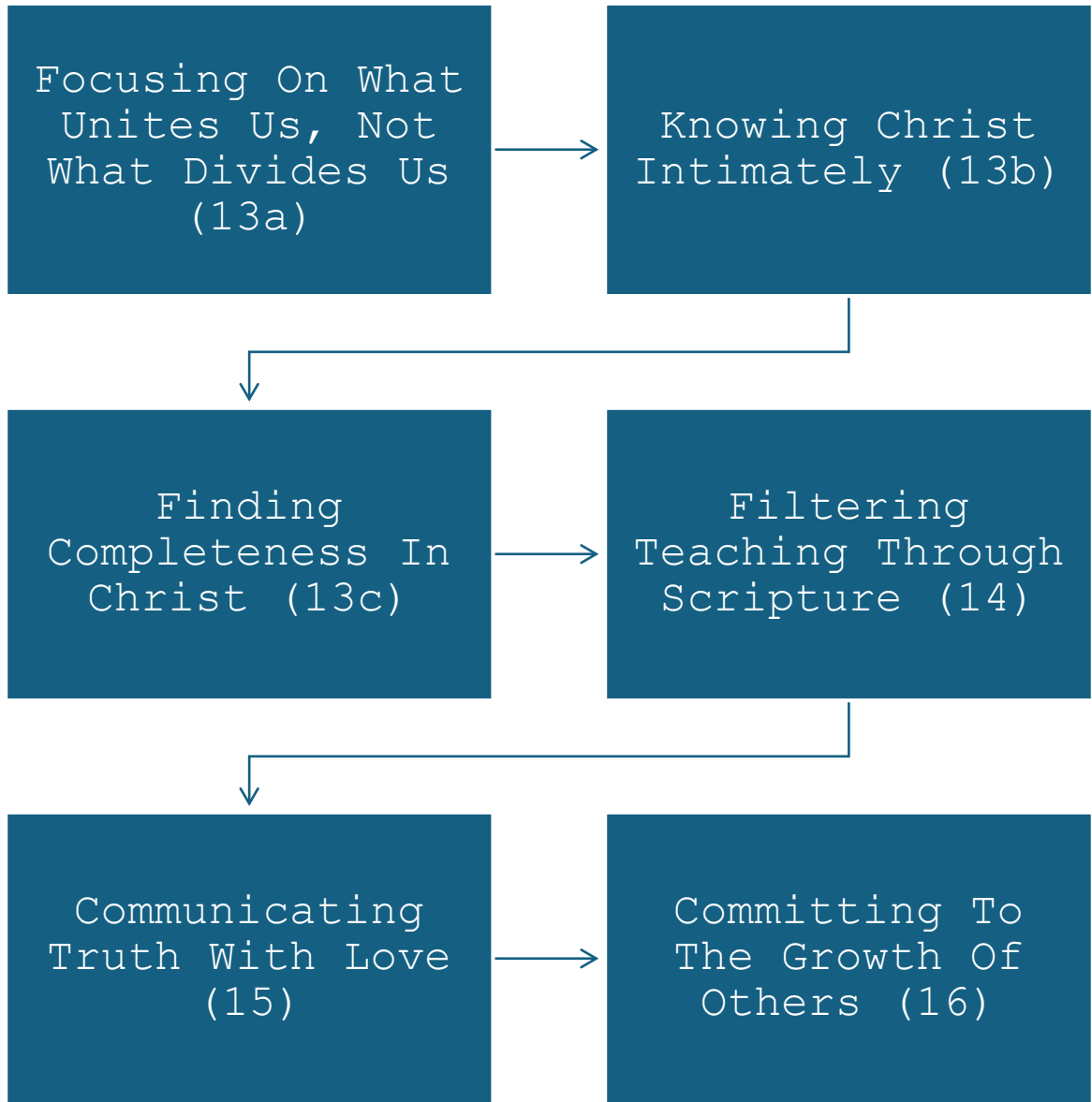
Ephesians 4:13-16



Spiritual Maturity Involves:

- Putting Away Childish Things (1 Cor 13:11)
- Comprehending Life Through A Spiritual Lens (1 Cor 14:20)
- Feeding On The Solid Food Of Scripture (Heb 5:11-14)
- Overcoming Evil Not Succumbing To It (1 Jn 2:14)





1. Focusing On What Unites Us, Not What Divides Us



^{13a} *until we all attain to the unity of the faith*

Unity Is Based On The Word Of God

- **Ephesians 4:13a**
until we all attain
to the unity of the
faith



Unity Is Based On The Word Of God

- Immature Believers Divide Over Opinions & Preferences
- Mature Believers Unite In The Bond Of Christ's Family And The Truth Of God's Word



2. Knowing Christ Intimately



13b and of the knowledge of the Son of God

Knowing God Intimately Is Life's Ultimate Pursuit

Philippians 3:10 that I may **know** Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death



Ultimate Intimacy

Victorious Power

Purposeful
Suffering

How Can We Get To Know Christ Better?

- Read Bible as a love letter
- Develop an empathy with Christ as you read of His life
- Pray as you would converse with a parent or close friend
- Study theology with an amazement of who God is



3. Finding Completeness In Christ



13c to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

The Apprehension Of Maturity

^{13c} *to a perfect man,*

- “perfect” = *teleios* = complete, mature
- maturity versus immaturity
- completeness versus incompleteness



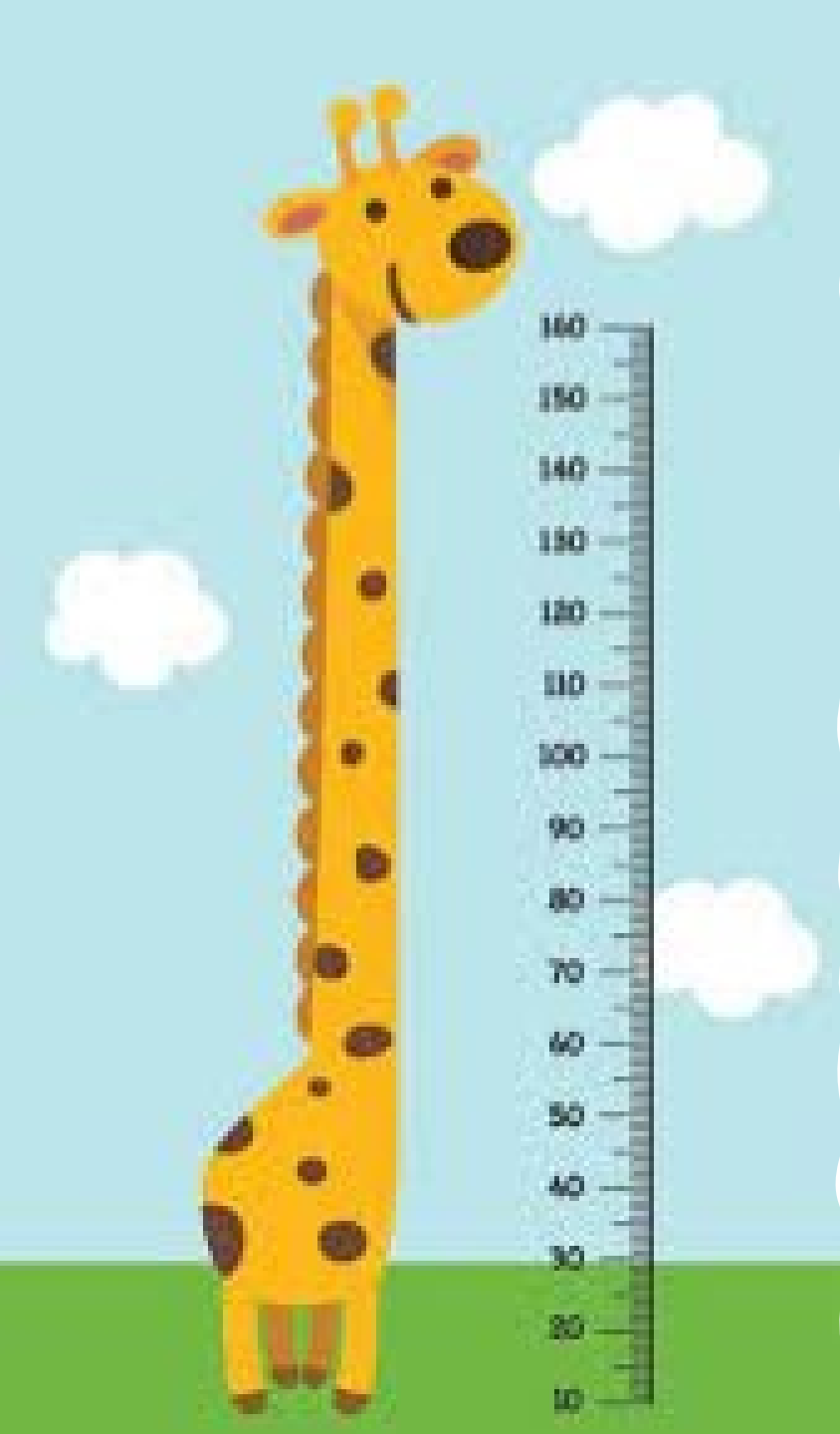
The Aim Of Maturity



- **Ephesians 4:13c** to a **perfect** man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
- **Ephesians 3:19** to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be **filled with all the fullness** of God.
- **Colossians 1:28** Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus.
- **Romans 8:29** ... predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The Aim Of Maturity

- Find your completeness in measuring yourself against Christ, not the world's standard
- Maturity is growth process. Commit yourself to work at it everyday.



Teaching Through Scripture



¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,



The Word Is Our ...



Discernment

- *that we should no longer be children*



Anchor

- *tossed to and fro*



Authority

- *and carried about with every wind of doctrine,*



Reliability

- *by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

5. Communicating Truth With Love



but, speaking the truth in love,

Generally – In Life

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.



	Speaking The Truth	Not Speaking The Truth
In Love	Compassionate Correction Constructive Criticism	Fear That Truth Hurts
Without Love	Bluntness & Tactlessness Destructive Criticism	Flattery (Prov 27:6) Slandering (Job's friends)

Specifically - In Ministry

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.



	Speaking The Truth	Not Speaking The Truth
In Love	Passionate Instruction Passionate Evangelism	Dumbing Down Theology (Acts 20:27) Eliminating Hell, Judgment, Wrath
Without Love	Judgmentalism Legalism	Religious Deception & Manipulation Legalism



- Live A Life Balanced With Love & Truth
- Love Enough To Give The Truth

6. Committing To The Growth Of Others



^{15b} may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Aspect	Attitude	Action
Social	Cooperation	Acceptance: Accept each other on the basis of faith, not personality
Devotional	Concentration	Adoration: Pursue a personal knowledge of Christ, not merely factual
Vocational	Completion	Attainment: Our fulfillment is found in Christ, not in personal accomplishments
Intellectual	Conviction	Assurance: Find security in God's truth, not man's religion
Relational	Communication	Attestation: Communicate both truth and love, not deceitful manipulation
Interpersonal	Collaboration	Alliance: Commit your to each other's growth, not just personal happiness

Maturity Reflects In The Body Of Christ



Christ Designed The Church Body To Grow ...

- **Comprehensively**
 - **Cooperatively**
 - **Coordinately**
 - **Compassionately**
- *from whom the whole body,*
 - *joined and knit together by what every joint supplies,*
 - *according to the effective working by which every part does its share,*
 - *causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

Are you committed to the growth of others?

- Commit to Church Membership
- Participate in a fellowship or small group ministry?
- Exercising your spiritual gifts
- Pray for others
- Encouraging one person at a time
- Give time and money



**A mature
congregation
knows how
to:**

unite in Christ when the world is divisive

stand on God's Word when the world offers no ultimate truth

strive for Christlike because character matters more than worldly success

speak the truth with love because being over critical or a pushover is unbalanced

feed each other in Christ instead of waiting to be fed