

## Grow > Ephesians 4:11-16

**4:11-12** *He gave...* The church's mission is to be and make disciples; we do that as we pursue Jesus in humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity (**4:2**). But we can't bring that about on our own! How does Jesus form us as a body? The answer Paul gives is that our maturing and equipping comes from Spirit-given gifts intended for the building up of God's people. These gifts, in this example, look like people: apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers.

**4:13-16** *...for His purposes.* The purpose of this growing and maturing isn't simply to better ourselves. Instead, we read that it is so that we'd grow in unity of the faith, to a maturity that is rooted in Jesus – one that will see us safely through trials and temptations, and that we each and together would find our proper place in Christ's body (the church!) as we glorify Him with our words and lives.

**The Point:** Christ's church grows through Christ's gifts given to us – all for the purpose of equipping the entire church for the work of serving and enjoying Jesus.

**Prayer:** Lord, we need Jesus to work in us if we are to be faithful examples of, and witnesses to, His love. Thank you for your plan to equip us. Teach us to crave maturity and service.

**Application:** What is your attitude toward the church – do you see it as a place for you to grow into maturity? What's your plan for growing alongside – and serving – God's people in 2026?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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