



DAY 11 - Ephesians 4:11-15; 4:21 - Maturity In Christ

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until 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, so 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. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,”...Ephesians 4:11-15

...”assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,”
Ephesians 4:21

Answering the call implicates becoming equipped for the work of the ministry, then equipping those who come along side and/or behind us.

As these verses state we are to build up the body of Christ to full maturity. Spiritual maturity. God’s plan is that we are to become built up (grow up) and not be tossed to and fro. (Meaning going forward, then backward), which opens us up to deception.

In times past, and in this present time there are many deceivers lying in wait to deceive God’s chosen, in which you are one.

Verse 15 tells us we are to “speak the truth in love, we are to grow up ***into Him***, who is the head, into Christ. To be “***into Him***” is to be “***with Him***.” A mature Christian is one who acts like Christ, looks like Christ in character, one who stands in Christ as they face life and helps others to face life. As the cells in our physical bodies work together to build up the physical, we are spiritual cells building up the body of Christ. Answering the call bring us up to spiritual maturity.



One evidence of spiritual maturity is to speak truth to one another in love. Please listen (read carefully). As I have learned through the school of hard knocks regarding “speaking the truth in love” to those who I thought might need to know the truth “in love” from my perspective. This scripture does not give us license to give our thoughts, opinion, perspectives to the hardships and cares of another’s life.

No matter how right we might be...

That would be taking this scripture out of context, which I did and as some still do today.

It is very important to take scripture from the whole text that supports the one verse speaking to us. In this case the supporting scripture is as follows: assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is **in Jesus**...Ephesians 4:21

“As the truth is **in Jesus**”...as mature Christians we are to grow up **into Christ** in every way. What Paul is teaching us is that we are to implement the truth of who Christ is into every situation. Jesus is the only answer.

I had given a friend a birthday party years ago, and invited mainly her friends and associates from our church. I also invited a person to play guitar so we could worship and sing together. It was a great night. The birthday girl was pleased. Another woman cornered me in my kitchen and told me she would never come to another event I hosted because everything I did related to God. She claimed to be a Christian. As I look back today that was the best compliment I could ever received. A great example of what answering the call looks like. Just tell with your words and show with your actions who Jesus is **all the time**.

“I believe that one reason why the Church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the World is because the world has so much influence over the Church.”
Charles H. Spurgeon