

September 2, 2018
Ephesians 4:13-16

GROWING AND MATURING IN CHRIST

- I. **Introduction:** When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

EI Estero Mission Statement:

The Mission of EI Estero Presbyterian Church is to glorify God through a **Grateful Commitment** to the **Great Commandment** and the **Great Commission.**"

The Great Commandment: "You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your soul and with all your strength, and the second is like it, to love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

The Great Commission: is to "Go therefore and make **disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded, and surely, I am with you always, even to the ends of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

- II. **Unpacking The Passage: Ephesians 4:13-16**

III. **What Maturity Is Not:**

- Maturity is not _____

IV. **What Is Maturity?**

Maturity: In Greek "Tealos" = Complete, Perfect, Lacking Nothing

V. **Marks Of Maturity:**

A. **Maturity Is Christ-Like Character**

“until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of **the fullness of Christ.**” Ephesians 4:13

Jesus said, “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” John 13:15

“Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” I John 2:6

B. **Maturity Is Growing In Discipleship:**

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:16

Discipleship Groups provide:

- A place for love and care
- A place for applying the Bible to life
- A place for exploring questions of faith
- A place for sharing testimonies of God’s activities in our lives
- A place for encouraging, building and strengthening one another
- A place for reaching people with God’s love
- A place for growing on the path of discipleship
- A place for spiritual formation
- A place for prayer

JOIN A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP!!!

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of September 3rd to 9th
Ephesians 4:1-16

Open It

1. What one quality would you like to develop in your character?
2. *What keeps sports teams unified?
3. What do you consider yourself good at doing?
4. What skill or talent would you like to master?

Explore It

5. What did Paul urge the Ephesians to do? (4:1)
6. What three virtues foster unity among Christians? (4:2)
7. *How should Christians conduct themselves toward each other? Why? (4:2-6)
8. *What are the seven elements of Christian unity? (4:4-6)
9. How is Christian unity related to the nature of God? (4:4-6)
10. *How are we enabled to live at peace with each other? (4:7)
11. Who gives grace to each believer? (4:7)
12. How did Paul confirm God's giving of gifts? (4:8)
13. What commentary did Paul make on the Old Testament passage he quoted? Why? (4:9-11)

14. With what kind of people does God fill the church?
(4:11)

15. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? (4:12-13)

16. What results from gifted believers equipping the church? (4:14-16)

Get It

17. Why did Paul stress the theme of Christian unity to the Ephesians?

18. *How do you get along with other Christians?

19. *What is God's prescription for unity among believers?

20. How does the Spirit help you maintain the "bond of peace" with others in your church?

21. How have you benefited from the Christian leadership in your church?

22. What is your responsibility to help others in the body of Christ?

23. How unified is your church?

Apply It

24. *How do you need to show humility, gentleness, and patience in dealing with a difficult relationship this week?

25. What service can you offer another church member to help build up the body of Christ?

26. To whom do you need to speak the truth lovingly this week?