

August 18, 2019

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Focusing on Growth Ephesians 4:11-16

1. DCC's Growth is **GIVEN** by God's **GRACE**, vv. 11-13, 15-16 (*cf. vv. 3-10; 1 Cor. 3:1-7, 12:1-11; Colossians 2:19*).
2. DCC's Growth is **DEPENDENT** on Your **INDIVIDUAL WORK**, vv. 12, 15-16 (*cf. v. 7; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 3:8-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; 1 Peter 4:10*).
3. DCC's Growth is **MEASURED** by Our **LIKENESS** to Jesus, vv. 13-15 (*cf. Romans 8:29; Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1; 1 Peter 2:2-3; 2 Peter 1:5-11, 3:17-18; Colossians 1:3-12, 28*).



Using examples from your family's past, discuss how each person in the family has grown over the years. How are they different now from how they used to be?

What does growing up look like? Now, using Ephesians 4 and 2 Peter 1, discuss what growing up spiritually looks like? What is God's role in that growth, and what is yours?

For Further Study, Thought and Discussion

1. Skim read and summarize the first 3 chapters of Ephesians. What is Paul's main point? How many instructions does Paul give in the first 3 chapters? How does ch. 4 serve as a transition (note 4:1 and the introduction of instructions for the church)? What does Paul "urge" the church to do in 4:1-16? What is the main purpose of his instructions (vv. 14-16)? What is the cost of not following them (v. 14)?
2. There are some who say that they can perpetually grow in their relationship with Christ without "going to church." How would you respond to that on the basis of Ephesians 4? How is the spiritual growth of the individual believer connected to the growth of the church body as a whole? What happens to a church body when the individual members of it stall out in their growth?

3. Read Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:38-47. What was the result in Acts 2:47 of the first disciples living out the Great Commission? Who brought about that result? What lesson can we learn about the relationship between spiritual growth and numerical growth in the church?
4. As DCC continues to grow in its obedience to Jesus in making disciples, it is natural to expect that that will result in the numerical growth of the church body. What opportunities and challenges come with that kind of growth? Why is that growth good, and biblical? How should we be preparing for that growth now?