

GROWTH IN THE BODY, WITH ALL THE SAINTS

He predestined us to the adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on **us in the Beloved**... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance **in the saints**, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ... And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things **to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all**.... So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens with the saints**, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, in whom the whole building, **being fitted together, is growing** into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are **being built together** into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (Isaiah 45:9, Romans 9:19-21)...*to be specific*, that the Gentiles are **fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers** of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the **unfathomable riches of Christ**, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known **through the church** to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*. *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every **family** in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God**. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance **for one another** in love,...Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE** of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for **we are members of one another**. BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have **something to share with one who has need**. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will **give grace** to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind **to one another**, tender-hearted, forgiving **each other**, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **speaking to one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **always giving thanks for all things** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject **to one another** in the fear of Christ.

Ephesians 1:5-6, Ephesians 1:17-19, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:19-22, Ephesians 3:6, Ephesians 3:8-21, Ephesians 4:2, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, Ephesians 5:15-21

The Church - His Body - The Fullness of Him



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God's will is for each of us to grow healthy within the body.

Eph 3:17-19 “So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

Growth/Application: Eph 2:21-22 “being fitted together”, “being built together”, **Eph 2:19, 3:6** “fellow citizens”, “fellow heirs”, “fellow members”, “fellow partakers”: Is there any doubt that individual growth takes place most healthy within the body? Yet God has granted to each of us the choice/ability to choose – **Isaiah 45:9, Romans 9:19-21, John 6:66-71**

SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER – Out of the abundance of the heart

Growth/Application: Eph 4:25 What does it mean to lay aside falsehood and speak truth with my neighbor? In relation to growth within the body, what happens in a relationship when two people get beyond the surface and share truth from the heart? Common problems in getting to this point are?

Eph 4:29 - speak “only” such a word as is good for edification – so that it will give grace: what does this mean? How might relationships in my life be different if I “only” spoke words as were good for edification? What type of speech would this rule out? Or what type of spirit or attitude would this rule out? How do you see that Jesus was perfectly balanced in this?

A body without a head is dead & a head without a body is also dead

John 15:1-11: being physically in church is not enough by itself for me to grow and bear fruit

Growth/Application: Eph 4:29-32 in verse 31, some the dangers **Taking serious the will of God for each one of His children to be a healthy, fruit bearing member of His body: Eph 5:15** “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine” **Luke 12:42-48 & 13:6-9**



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