

No Greater Love

Ephesians 4:11-16 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- We _____ better together.

1. _____ is the goal for every Christian.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.

- Transformation means to _____.

• Transformation happens _____.

- Ephesians 4:17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind.
- Ephesians 4:22-24 In reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside** the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on** the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

• Transformation continues to happen through _____.

- Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith...”
- 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- Ephesians 4:12 “...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...”
- Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- “be transformed” is a present **passive** imperative.
- Keep on putting yourself in a place of transformation.
- Part of that place of spiritual transformation is Christian community.

2. We _____ to one another’s transformation.

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- Church leaders → Equipping the saints → serving others → building up others
- Ephesians 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
- Ephesians 4:14-15 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ.
- Three ideas:
 - 1) Accept the responsibility for transformation in other believers.
 - 2) Study the Word of God and help one another to be grounded in solid biblical beliefs.
 - 3) Speak the truth in love.

3. Commit yourself to _____ transformation.

Ephesians 4:15-16 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- **We _____ through our uniqueness.**
1 Corinthians 12:12 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.
- **We _____ each other together through our love.**
Colossians 2:2-3 I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. ³ In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Ephesians 4:16 ...being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

What would taking the responsibility for the spiritual growth of your friends and family members look like in your life this week?