

Re-cap – What Is The Church?

- The Church, the plan of God now revealed to all of creation, is nothing less than the Body of Christ on Earth, with Christ as its Head, filled with His power and fullness, and made for the Glory of God the Father.

Grow up!

Ephesians 4:1-16

Unity and maturity in the body of Christ

Ephesians 4: 1-6

- ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4: 7-10

- ⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:
 - 'When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.'
- ⁹ (What does 'he ascended' mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Ephesians 4: 11-13

- ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ 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: 14 -16

- ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ 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.

Three points

- **Unity**
- **Maturity**
- **It's not about you**

UNITY

Unity

- What Christ has paid for on the Cross
- Unity is given but has to be maintained – by the bond of peace. (v3)
- What God has established and is working towards
- Contrast 3 and 13 – what is going on?



TRUE UNITY?

Unity means we all look the same?

- **No! Diversity of a creative Creator God**
- **Range of gifts**
- **One calling but many vocations**

UNITY -TEAM

- **Example of a great team**
- **Lost their star player**
- **Got the team vision**
- **Took individual responsibility**
- **Result!**

A GREAT TEAM!

**WOODY CHILDREN'S
WORKERS!**

MATURITY



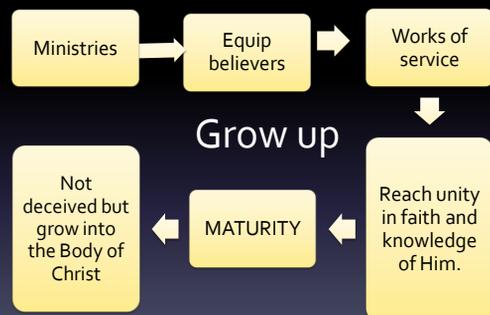
Babies

- So messy!
- Me, me, me!
- Essential stage BUT not natural to stay there!

Three ways to grow up (v13)

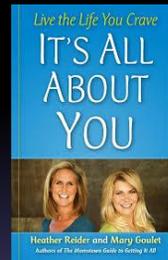
- Exercise: SERVE to build up the Body
- Fellowship: learning to work together to come to unity in the faith
- Grow in the knowledge of the Son of God.
 - Eat: Word of God
 - Worship
 - Listen

Ephesians 4: 11-15





What could possibly go wrong?



IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

Tension

- It's not about you
- It's all about you

NABEEL QURESHI

- **It's not about you**
- Self-centred: Unable to see others needs
- Live in the comfort zone
- Not servant hearted
- At risk of being deceived because of immaturity

All together now...

- It's
- Not
- About
- Me!

Not about you

- It's about Him
- It's about them
- It's about those



Speak truth in love

- Key way to prevent us being tricked
- Truth and love go together
- Love first, speak last

What have we got going for us?

- We are being built – God is doing this by His Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:22)
- “I will build MY church” (Matt.16:18)
- We have unity in the Cross of Christ (Eph. 2:16)
- He has called us individually (Eph4:1)