

DESIGNED TO GROW UP

March 13, 2016 Ephesians 4:7-16 by Ben Skeat
Tooling up to change the world part 8

MAIN IDEA: Gods design for his church is that it would grow up into Christlike maturity. He has given the gift of different leaders to his church in order to help bring this to pass.

We were designed to _____ (4:12-16)

On a journey/trajectory towards growing up. No-one is there yet, all in it together.

Maturity = acting like an adult. Jesus provides the example and model for Christian “adulthood”

Marks of a maturing Church

1. Useful for God (v12): Good works directed towards the good/building up/edification of others
2. Unity (v13): Reconcile, forgive, put “first things” first
3. Knowledge of Jesus (v13): difference between right and wrong, true/false etc, wise, discerning
4. Truthful/internally consistent (v16): speak and live truth in kindness, gentleness, humility

BUT we can have these things, and still be immature in Christ. **What grows us up is the process of learning to live and love like Jesus**

“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**

Love God, love others. (cf. Luke 10:27)

**God has gifted the church with _____
on the journey** (4:11-12)

God has given the church gifts (leaders) to serve and equip

Apostle: Equips as they pioneer, plant, and oversee churches and church movements

Prophet: Equips as they hear the voice of God and communicate it to Gods people

Evangelist: Equips as they model the outreaching love of God to a dying world

Pastor: Equips as they share life with, serve, protect, and love each member of Gods family

Teacher: Equips as they teach Gods word and ways to his people

Each gift comes out of and points back to God’s grace and great love for his people.

God is looking for his church to _____

Respond by **committing** to grow in love for God and His people

Respond by **submitting** to the process (Be voluntarily teachable and humble, use the resources God has placed in your life!)

Respond by **giving** what God has given to you to others