

WORD

¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. **EPHESIANS 4:15,16**

If we've made a decision to follow Christ, we not only do this for the purpose of helping others follow Him. We are also following Him with other believers, and we share our lives with them. This is essentially what fellowship is. As Christians, we purposefully build our lives with other believers to glorify God through our lives. In this lesson, we will look at three key elements for genuine fellowship—unity, love, and maturity.

1 Unity

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **EPHESIANS 4:1-3**

Paul exhorted the church in Ephesus to walk in unity, humility, and patience. Believers who share lives are brought together not by common personalities, backgrounds, or preferences. We are brought together by our common faith in Christ, and the Bible tells us that we should be eager to maintain this unity. What are some of the things that can cause disunity or discord among believers and how can we guard against this?

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2 Love

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ . . . **EPHESIANS 4:15**

As believers, everything we do should be in love—even when we speak the truth, which could potentially hurt others. This results in maturity. What do you think will happen if we do things out of love—as Christ has loved us. What do you think will happen if we do not do things out of love—maybe out of selfishness, pride, or insecurity?

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3 Maturity

. . . we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ . . . **EPHESIANS 4:15**

One of the images the Bible uses to describe the church is a body. In Christ's body, we each have a part to play, and as we do our part well, the body grows and matures in Christ. What happens when one part of your body isn't working properly? How do you think this looks like in the church?

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