

More Than Members

Growing Into Christ

Ephesians 4:12-13

BIG IDEA

The goal of the church isn't attendance or activity — it's maturity measured by Christ's fullness.

1 — WE'RE BUILT UP, NOT JUST GATHERED (V. 12B)

- A crowd gathers. A construction project builds. They're not the same thing.
- Every piece is load-bearing. There is no neutral position.
- Passive membership isn't harmless — it's a missing piece.

Ephesians 2:21-22

"The whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. You are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit."

KEY TRUTH God isn't gathering a crowd. He's building something. And you're part of it — not someday. Right now.

FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 1

A crowd _____ . A construction project _____ .
Passive membership is not harmless — it's a _____ piece.
The church isn't just a building — it's where God _____ .

Notes:

2 — THE GOAL IS A MEASURING STICK NAMED JESUS (V. 13)

- "Unity in the faith" — not uniformity; a shared anchor, a common center in Christ
- "Knowledge of the Son" — epignosis: deep, relational knowing, not just information
- "Maturity measured by Christ's fullness" — the standard is Jesus, not each other

Colossians 1:28

"We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ."

KEY TRUTH Nobody has graduated. But measuring against Christ instead of each other means you stop competing and start growing.

FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 2

Unity isn't _____ ; it's a shared _____ in Christ.
Epignosis = not knowing _____ him, but actually _____ him.
The standard is _____ 's fullness — both _____ and freeing.

Notes:

3 — GROWTH HAPPENS TOGETHER OR NOT AT ALL

- A hand doesn't grow by leaving the body — it dies.
- Isolation dressed up as discipline is not maturity.
- Friction, encouragement, accountability — you cannot manufacture these alone.

Hebrews 10:24–25

“Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another.”

KEY TRUTH Growth isn't something that happens to you while you sit still. It happens through you, around you, and because of you — when you're in this together.

FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 3

Paul says “until we _____ reach unity” — not you alone, but _____.

A hand cut off from the body doesn't grow stronger — it _____.

The body builds itself up by the proper working of _____ part.

APPLICATION

Philippians 1:6

“He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

- Move from the edges to the inside — connect in a way that costs you something.
- Stay in what's hard instead of quietly pulling back.
- Contribute what you have now — not a perfect version of yourself someday.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's the difference between “gathering” and being “built up”? Which best describes you right now?

2. Which phrase in v. 13 hits you hardest — unity in the faith, knowledge of the Son, or maturity measured by Christ's fullness?

3. What would it look like for you to be a building block this week — not someday, but right now?

MY TAKEAWAY THIS WEEK

“Don't be a missing piece.” — Ephesians 4:12b–13

ANSWER KEY

S1: gathers • builds • missing • dwells

S2: uniformity • anchor • about • knowing • Christ • humbling

S3: all • together • dies • every individual