

TIME TO THRIVE

EPHESIANS 3:16-21

How to Thrive as a Healthy Church

Ephesians 4:11–16

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.

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.

I. We thrive by Leader/equippers equipping the members

Ephesians 4:11

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.”

II. We thrive by members doing the work of the ministry

Ephesians 4:12.

“For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

III. We thrive by the body pursuing the right goals

Ephesians 4:13

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

IV. We thrive by being mature in doctrine and speech

Ephesians 4:14–15

“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”

V. We thrive when every member does their part

Ephesians 4:16

“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”