

TOGETHER

DESIGNED FOR RELATIONSHIP & COMMUNITY

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MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

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Designed to Grow Together
Ephesians 4:11-16

God designed us to grow!

1. Equip (12) – describes the dynamic act by which persons or things are properly conditioned (picture: setting a bone)
2. Building up (12) – The word is an expression of development (picture: a house being built)
3. Attain (13) – to come to, to arrive at, to reach, to come down to the goal; becoming something I currently am not. (picture: getting a college degree)
4. Mature (13) – progress; that which has reached the set goal. (picture: ripened fruit)
5. Measure of stature (13) – an attained level of standard; full age or ripeness. (picture: gorillas)
6. Grow (15,16) – to increase in some way (picture: a tree)

How our growth plays out:

1. We are united around the truth of Jesus.

Eph. 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,

2. We mature into the likeness of Jesus.

Eph. 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

3. We stand firm in the wisdom of Jesus.

Eph. 4:14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

How God's design works:

1. The design works because of its connection to Christ.

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

2. The design works because the whole body is in union.

Eph. 4:16 *from 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.*

3. The design works because each individual keeps the body united.

Eph. 4:16 *from 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.*

4. The design works because each individual aids in the body's growth.

Eph. 4:16 *from 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.*

Discussion & Reflection Questions:

1. What are reasons people may isolate? What is the result of such isolation? How have you seen that play out?
2. Think about this quote from the brilliant mind of Nathan Baird: "You cannot love in isolation!!" Talk about why this is true.
3. What are some of the scriptural commands encouraging us to avoid isolation? Read Hebrews 10:23-25. Notice the communal commands. How are you doing in promoting the growth within the body?

SONGS

"Nothing But the Blood" – Robert Lowry

"Together In This" – Vallley Bible Worship

"Jesus We Love You" – Hannah McClure, Kalley Heiligenthal, Paul McClure

"Living Hope" – Brian Johnson, Phil Wickham

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$43,356.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,367,385.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,399,160.00