



## IMPACT ❖ Ephesians 4:11-16 ❖ April 20, 2008

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1. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What do you believe are some of the signs that a church is “growing up”?

*Leader Hints:*

*Paul’s description of a maturing church is captured in the following phrases:*

- ❖ *“Unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God” – knowing what you believe about Jesus and living in light of that belief.*
- ❖ *“Attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” – having the stature of Jesus or taking on his character. Paul goes on to use a negative illustration in v. 14 of being tossed back and forth like a rudderless ship. His point is that a maturing church is neither unstable, nor lacking in direction, nor open to the manipulation of false teaching.*
- ❖ *“Speaking the truth in love” – confessing church.*
- ❖ *“Grow up into him” – becoming like Jesus.*

2. Try to get your group to look at these phrases and describe practically what the signs of a maturing church would actually be.

3. Paul speaks to how the church matures or “grows up.” Pastor Earl explained it like a mathematical formula. Do you remember what that was?

*Leader Hints:*

*A + B = Maturity*

4. Who are the A, and who are the B?

*Leader Hints:*

*Read Ephesians 4:11-12. In terms of A, there are four categories of gifted people given to the church (“pastors and teachers,” while not the same, are considered a single group in the original language). B equals “God’s people.”*

5. What is the responsibility of A, and what is the responsibility of B?

*Leader Hints:*

*A equips and B ministers.*

6. What does this mean for our church?

*Leader Hints:*

*You may need to ask these follow-up questions:*

- ❖ *Who do you think might be the A in our church?*
- ❖ *What kind of expectations should we have of them?*
- ❖ *What kind of expectations should they have of the rest of us?*

7. Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is? How are you using your spiritual gift(s) in ministry?