

Spiritual Immaturity and Its Dangers

Ephesians 4:14-15
Message

Spiritual immaturity leaves us vulnerable to spiritual disaster, so conduct yourselves truthfully that we may grow to be like Christ.

Walk In Unity

**Exhortation to
grow together
toward unity of
the faith
(4:7-16)**

Christ gives spiritual gifts to each believer in the church (7-10)

Some gifts equip believers to serve for growth, harmony and maturity (11-13)

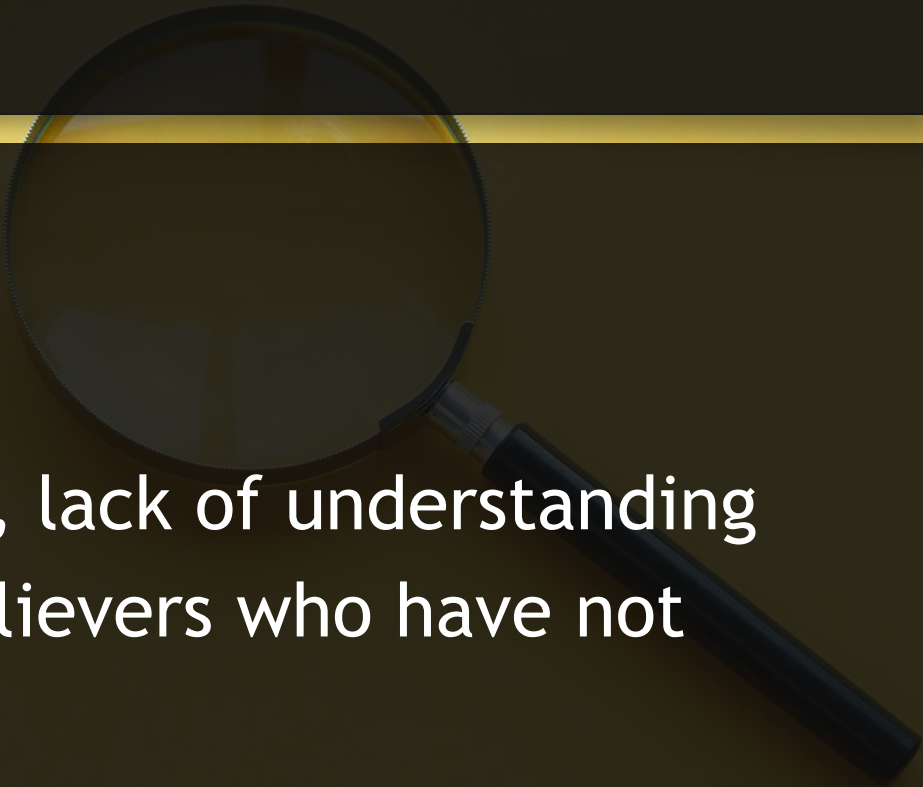
As believers serve one another, the result is stability, love and more growth (14-16)

When the body of Christ grows, that will:

1

Prevent spiritual
instability (14)

“Children”

- Infants or children
 - Immature, lack of experience, lack of understanding
 - Highlights the gullibility of believers who have not matured spiritually
- 

Believers are not to remain as spiritual infants

Spiritual children tossed, carried by:

False doctrine from every direction

1

Trickery (lit., “dice playing”), cunning

2

Craftiness

3

Scheming = “method, strategy or scheme”

4

Deceitful (lit., roaming, wandering, going astray, leading astray) - In the NT = deceit, delusion, error

When the body of Christ grows, that will:

1

Prevent spiritual
instability (14)

2

Promote ongoing
spiritual growth
(15)

“Speaking the truth”

- Lifestyle characterized by truthfulness
- Thus, “being truthful”
- Verb applies to both conduct and speech
- “Practicing the truth” (NET Bible)

The character of our speech and conduct are both important

Some are determined to defend God's
truth...

“But sometimes they are conspicuously lacking in love. When they think they smell heresy, their nose begins to twitch, their muscles ripple, and the light of battle enters their eye. They seem to enjoy nothing more than a fight. Others make the opposite mistake. They are determined at all costs to maintain and exhibit brotherly love, but in order to do so are prepared even to sacrifice the central truths of revelation.”

Truth without love is just as bad as love
without truth

We need to continually improve at standing
for biblical truth while maintaining the
highest level of godly love