

# Church Growth: The Original Plan

## *Ephesians 4:16 Message*



**Be encouraged to faithfully exercise your spiritual gifts, knowing that God is using your service to build up the church.**

**When the  
body of  
Christ grows,  
it will:**

Prevent

Prevent spiritual instability  
(14)

Promote

Promote ongoing spiritual  
growth (15)

Produce

Produce spiritual growth by  
the loving work of each  
individual (16)

# Here then is God's original plan for church growth:

Christ is the source of the church's growth

Christ's work is intricate

Each person uses their gifts to the extent that Christ has measured out to them

Christ causes the church's growth through each person's service

Love is the sphere in which service and growth take place

# Headship: Two Views

## Egalitarian

- Evangelical Feminism
- Head = source
- They reject the idea of headship as authority

Him, who is the **head**, even **Christ**



From whom (source)

## Complementarian

- Biblical view
- Head = authority, preeminence
- Grammatically “Christ” is the source of the church’s growth. “From whom” points back to the word “Christ”, not “head”.
- A person’s head is not the source of the body. It directs the body.



# Christ's work is intricate

Christ skillfully and  
carefully fits us together

Christ meticulously knits  
us together to complete  
His church

Christ works through  
each interaction  
between individuals to  
supply all that is needed  
for the church to grow

*Christ is meticulously working to knit individual saints together into a beautiful church that reflects His glory*

## God's original plan for church growth

Christ causes the church's growth where He skillfully and carefully fits us together, meticulously knits us together, and works through each interaction between individuals to supply all that is needed for growth. Within the environment of godly love, each person uses their gifts to the extent that Christ has measured out to them.