

BEYOND SUNDAY

Taking Sunday's Message Into The Week



Series: Why Church?

Message: Guided For Growth

Main Text: Ephesians 4:11-16

Beyond Sunday Guide

Main Idea

This past Sunday, Pastor Joseph Grant continued our **Why Church?** series by building on last week's emphasis that the Church is more than just a place we attend—the **Church is a family** we belong to. Now, most people understand that belonging to a family means more than simply having a seat at the table; it means having a place where you can be challenged, encouraged, and supported as you grow day in and day out. In that same way, **God has placed believers within His family not simply so they can belong, but so they can become more like Christ.**

That took us to **Ephesians 4**, where Paul shows how God provides for that growth. He writes that Christ gives leaders, teaching, ministry, and the local church **“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”** (*Ephesians 4:11–12*). Pastor Joseph illustrated this with a story about his family planting a tree in his mother-in-law's yard. Upon completing the planting, they placed support stakes beside the young tree—not because the tree was failing, but because **the tree was growing and needed a guide**. God's provision for spiritual growth works much the same way: what may sometimes feel like structure or direction is actually part of His provision to help His people become strong and healthy.

Paul goes on to show that the goal of this growth is not simply knowing more or doing more, but **becoming more like Jesus**. He writes that believers are to **“come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”** (*Ephesians 4:13*). And this growth is not something God intends to happen in isolation. As Paul continues, he describes the Church as a body in which **“every part does its share”** (*Ephesians 4:16*)—people growing together, encouraging one another, serving side-by-side, and helping each other become more like Christ. **The Church is not only a family you belong to; it's also a place where you grow and help others grow.**

Talk About It

1. In the message, Pastor Joseph said, **“Progress requires a process.”** Why do you think people sometimes expect spiritual growth to happen automatically? What does this statement mean to you when you think about your own growth in Christ?
2. Read **Ephesians 4:11–12** again. What do these verses reveal about the ways God has provided for believers to grow? Why do you think God chose to use the Church and other people as part of that process?
3. Read **Ephesians 4:13–15**. What do you notice about Paul's description of spiritual maturity? How would you describe the difference between simply knowing more about Jesus and actually becoming more like Jesus?
4. Paul says that the body grows as **“every part does its share”** (*Ephesians 4:16*). What does that tell you about the relationship between your own spiritual growth and the growth of the people around you? Why do you think God designed believers to grow together rather than in isolation?



God provides structure for our growth; He desires maturity in our growth; and He uses people to aid our growth.

Make It Practical

1. Consider whether you have become complacent in your walk with Christ. Have you become comfortable with where you are spiritually rather than continuing to pursue growth? Ask God to forgive you where you have settled, and ask the Holy Spirit to awaken a fresh desire in you to know Christ more and become more like Him.
2. Honestly reflect on one area where you know God is calling you to grow. Be specific—your prayer life, knowledge of Scripture, faith, obedience, relationships, serving, or something else. What may be standing in the way of your growth? Name the obstacle and identify one practical step you can take this week to move forward.
3. Put one intentional step toward spiritual growth on your calendar this week. Whether it is time in Scripture, prayer, serving, learning, or something else, give your growth a place in your schedule rather than simply hoping it happens.
4. Identify one person God has placed in your life who can help you grow, and reach out to them this week. Invite their encouragement, wisdom, accountability, or perspective. You were never meant to figure out your spiritual growth alone.
5. Think of someone in your life who may need help growing in their walk with Christ. Reach out, encourage them, pray with them, share something God is teaching you, or simply let them know you are in their corner. Ask God to show you how you can help someone else take their next step.

Prayer

Father, thank You for allowing us through Christ to be part of Your family. Thank You that we are not only brought near to You, but that You have given us a church family to belong to here on earth. Thank You for the people You have placed around us to encourage, challenge, and help us grow. Forgive me for the times I have become comfortable or complacent in my walk with You. Holy Spirit, awaken in me a fresh desire to grow—to know Your Word, pursue You, and become more like Christ. Give me the humility to receive the wisdom, encouragement, correction, and accountability You provide through others. And help me remember that I am not only called to grow, but to help others grow. Show me who I can encourage, walk alongside, and help take their next step toward You. As I move through this week, help me not simply ask, “Have I arrived?” but “Am I growing?” Continue shaping me into the image of Christ, one step at a time. In Jesus’ name, Amen.