

## **Ephesians 4:16**

### **" No Joint Left Dislocated: Every-member Theological Health for the Growth of the Body"**

*Since our growth comes only from Christ, we can only grow in His way. And what is His way of growth? We've been learning in Ephesians 4:11-16 that it's theological and corporate. And that corporate emphasis is very strong in v16. Every joint supplies something. Not all joints are the same, but no one ever thought that even the slightest dislocated joint was unimportant! If we want to grow, and we want to do it Jesus's way, we need to be noticing the joints and parts that aren't coming along with the rest of the body, and do what we can to help them come along with us under the ministry of the Word that Jesus has supplied in v11.*

**(Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors in the auto-transcription below. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via [tinysa.com/hopewellarp](http://tinysa.com/hopewellarp))**

Ephesians chapter 4 are portion for this afternoon. Is verse 16 in order to get the context and this start reading in verse 11. Visions for verses 11 through 16, these are God's words and he himself gave some to be apostles some prophets some evangelists and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints.

For the work of ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ. Till we all come to the unity of the faith. And of the knowledge of the Son of God. To a perfect man. To the measure of the stature. Of the fullness of Christ. That we should no longer be children.

Tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine. By the trickery of men and the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting but speaking truth in love. May grow up in all things into him, who is the head Christ? From whom the whole body joined and knit together by what every joint supplies.

According to the effective working by which every part does its share. Causes growth of the body. For the edifying of itself. In love.

So far the reading of God's inspired and generic word.

It was my joy a few weeks ago one of the young people in the church came brought a list a questions that they had been thinking about in their own private worship and family worship and on that list was. How do you grow? It's a great question. One of the reasons is a great question because it is students that God has an answer.

And I actually grew up in a church context where we tried all sorts of stuff but it didn't occur to us that Jesus actually had given us the way that we grow. But one of the ways that we could have answered the question was Jesus. That's what this verse is beginning by saying right?

From whom the whole body and then there is this middle part causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. We don't have in us the stuff to make ourselves grow. Growth has to come from Christ. He has life in him. He has goodness in him.

He has power in him. It's his life that is being worked out in us by his Holy Spirit. And so as we've been learning and Ephesians chapter 4 that Jesus had a plan for how he would grow his body and its members and that plan especially was his word.

The apostles and prophets by him that word first came and was written down the evangelists by him, it was spoken where it hadn't been spoken before and Pastor teachers who, Labor in particular congregations in the word why? Because every single member of the body is supposed to be growing in knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and His word is supposed to be increasing in doctrinal stability so that they don't easily get tossed to and fro or blown about because he's designed for us to grow together.

And that none of the parts of the body are optional. Every joint supply something. Now in first Corinthians 12, he says well the the eye and the hand and the foot and so on the nose can't either say that because they're not one of the other parts they're not part of the body or say about somebody else because they're not the same part that they're not part of the body.

Lord Jesus has arranged the joints the members of the body as he wishes. And every single one of those joints is important. And I love that he he picks joint here. How many of you have ever had a dislocated joint? Finger shoulder probably more of you children than you know have had a dislocated elbow at some point.

Have you ever said about your joint which ever joined it was in the whole body? Oh, that's all right. It's not an important one. Everything comes to a grinding halt, doesn't it? When one of the joints is not the way it should be. The Lord wants us not only to grow instability for ourselves under the the ministry of the pastor teachers who are to be teaching us and applying to us and leading us in following His word, but he also wants us to value one another's growth.

And he wants each of you to view your own growth is important to the rest of the body. So that when you're having your private devotions or when you're having your family devotions, you're not just working on me, you know board is working on you you're not just working on our family, oh the Lord is working on your family and that family worship but it's necessary for the growth the building up of the whole body in love.

Because the unity that we have is especially a unity of faith a unity of believing whatever the Lord teaches us in the Bible and following whatever the Lord commands us in the Bible that's what you unites us and so sometimes I hear this massive disconnect from the mind of of the Lord in Ephesians 4 where someone will

say, I don't know why we got to do all that theology stuff, why can't we just come together?

Well, how do you come together? I don't want to know why we got a got a you know be so precise about all that doctrine stuff. I just want to grow in Jesus, which is our love Jesus, well, how do you grow in Jesus and how do you love?

Jesus? He's the one who tells us how he will do that and he's the only one who can tell us because he's got everything in him. You and I you know, we can say well, I feel like this works or I you know though, you know, I felt close to the Lord when that and I felt like well.

You're not the one who is going to make you grow and you're not the one who is going to make me grow and I'm not the one who's going to make you grow. Jesus is the one who grows us and he says we need one another that every joint supplies something and every member does it share.

So if any of us is going to grow and if we are going to grow as a body we're going to need to do it together. It means we're all going to need to take heed how we hear like we heard from Luke 8 so that as we go through Genesis as we go through Ephesians as we went through Hebrews as we go through whatever the the Lord helps the the session to determine to go through whatever's next as we go through the Lord's day study in the class that we are all receiving and submitting to the Word and processing it allowing it to lay us bear to expose us changing what we do so that, The we will bear fruit.

Because you take this passage and you you put it together with the Luke 8 passage that we had today you want to bear 30 and and 60 and a hundred fold well part of our being fruitful individually is our growing together. And not not either it's you know, excluding ourselves from something that the church is growing in or if we notice that somebody else isn't growing if there's a joint out of place.

Then we need to we need to come alongside them and encourage them and say Jesus has designed for us to grow together, what can we do to help you be there what can we do to help you assimilate this? Have you noticed all this stuff that we've been learning recently, this is how we've had to change and what we're doing, how are you changing?

And what you're doing. Because otherwise. We are not gonna end up being built up together in love because the only one from him we can genuinely have that we can have an illusion of it there are lots of people who who appear to grow in love for something. One of my most fleshly enjoyable experiences in my life is gathering with a hundred and ten thousand of my closest friends and singing the praises of the University of Michigan football team vicariously feeling ourselves strong and victorious.

Because the only tickets I could ever afford were for those pansy teams anyway, so we always kill them. You can get people together and you can get them to enjoy

themselves and you can get them to sing and you can get them to agree. But not all unity is growth and not all building is the building that we're looking for just ask memorant.

They're never more united than they were a battle were they. And they sure did build well didn't they? But God wasn't pleased with it. And ultimately it was not real growth the only place you can get real brokers. Jesus. So we need to do it this way, which means we need to do it together.

And it needs to be the illogical. Growing and understanding and applying the truth of God's Word. Because the only true unity and the only true love and the only true doctrine comes from learning from Jesus, by the means that he has given us to be united in the faith.

A man, let's pray. Our Father in heaven. When we hear these things and we hear how unusual it sounds. We cry out for ourselves that we would get to experience that we thank you for the measure that you have granted us to. When we pray that you would improve it that you would especially.

For those joints that are in danger of being out of place parts of the body that are atrophy instead of growing and and we know from your word here that that means that we are missing something. We pray that you would grant. Recovery and strengthening and relocating that which is dislocated.

We pray most of all that you would be glorified here, but Lord. As we have just remembered before you this is unusual. So we pray for reformation and revival in your churches. That a devotion to studying in agreeing upon and putting into practice your word would once again mark your body and that that would be the unity and that would be the way love is expressed and that would be how growth happens but it would be genuine that it would be the growth that comes from Christ and is up into Christ themselves.

That he from whom it all comes and unto whom it all is would receive all of the glory. Now and forever in whose name also we ask it Men.