

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Church Growth: The Healthy Way To Grow

Text: **Ephesians 4:7-16**

Introduction:

1. Growth for a congregation of the Lord's church should be normal.
2. The Bible compares it to the growth of the human body.
3. Just like our own bodies, proper nutrition and exercise can help our Lord's spiritual body (the church) to grow.
4. As we study together let's consider what Paul says concerning church health and proper growth.

Discussion:

I. THE PROCESS OF CHURCH GROWTH (vs.7-12)

- A. God Creates Gifted People For Ministry (vs.7-10)
- B. God Prepares Gifted People For Ministry (vs.11)
- C. God Edifies Gifted People For Ministry (vs.12)

II. THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH GROWTH (vs.13-15)

- A. Unity of the Faith (v.13)
- B. Knowledge of the Son (v.13)
- C. Perfection/Spiritual Maturity (v.13)
- D. The Image of Christ (v.13)
- E. Doctrinal Stability (v.14)
- F. A Loving Testimony (v.15)

III. THE POWER FOR CHURCH GROWTH (vs.15-16)

- A. Glory to the Head (vs.15)
- B. Growth to the Body (v.16)
- C. Strength for the Member (v.16)

Conclusion:

1. If we desire to grow we need to do it at the right pace, in the right process, with the right purpose, and we will see the power of God!
2. Are you ready for God to use you to grow His church?
3. It's time to let God have control!