Growing Together

Ken Chapman · Ephesians 4:1–16

INTRODUCTION

- The elders have assigned a theme for 2019, and that theme is growing together.
- No great men are born, are they? They're born babies. Something had to happen for them to become great men or women of history. And that something is growth.
- We have within all of us, as babes in Christ, the potential to be spiritual greats, if we'll but grow.

1 You Are Part of Something Glorious

Ephesians 4:1–6; Ephesians 3:8–10; Ephesians 1:22–23

- Therefore, you are part of something glorious. Let's stop and bask in the glory of what we're a part of.
- There is one body and one spirit. Just as you were called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.
- The existence of the church, the existence of Christ's body declares in itself the manifold wisdom of God.
- When someone looks at the body of Christ, they see the wisdom of God.
- No real growth, no substantial sustaining growth will ever take place unless we understand the importance of that.

2 This Spiritual Body Is Equipped for a Purpose

Ephesians 4:7–12

- Christ didn't wash your sins away so that you could set on some shelf, forgiven of your sins, until the judgment day.
- 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.
- We are not redeemed and cleansed to set on some shelf somewhere. We are redeemed and cleansed and equipped to get to work.
- The tools that we're equipped with imply what type of work we're to be engaged in.
- Christ did not come and die on that cross so that we might do something which we could do without Him.
- This work is spiritual. And we've been equipped to that.

3 Growing Together Is Essential

Ephesians 4:13; Ephesians 4:14; Ephesians 4:15–16

- Till we all come to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

- What do we mean by growing together? We mean growing in every sense of that word, in every facet of it.
- We grow in spiritual maturity so that we might be able to withstand.
- This growth is a self-perpetuating growth. How do you help somebody else grow? Grow.
- Don't choose the path of least resistance. Very little growth is accomplished the easy way.
- Be patient with yourself. And maybe equally important, be patient with others.

THE CHALLENGE

Will you accept the challenge this morning, this year? To grow together.

MY NOTES