



TRINITY GRACE CHURCH

Ephesians 4:11-16 || Who are we? || Walt Alexander

“Our Saviour in his salvation does not simply cancel the charge against us in court and bid us walk out of jail, he meets us at the prison-door and puts us in a new way of life.” **P.T. Forsyth**

MAIN POINT: The call of discipleship begins a vigorous pursuit of growth in Christ.

1. Goal: Growth

“There are some of the Lord's people who seem never able to get on from the time of their conversion. They are born again, but they remain babes all their lives. You hear from them the same old experience. You remark in them the same want of spiritual appetite, the same want of interest in any thing beyond their own little circle, which you remarked ten years ago.

“There are others of the Lord's people who seem to be always advancing. They are ever adding grace to grace, and faith to faith, and strength to strength. Every time you meet them their hearts seem larger, and their spiritual stature taller and stronger. Every year they appear to see more, and know more, and believe more, and feel more in their religion.

“They not only have good works to prove the reality of their faith, but they are zealous of them. They not only do well, but they are unwearied in well-doing. When they fail they try again, and when they fall they are soon up again.

“These are those who make religion lovely and beautiful in the eyes of all. When you meet them, you could believe that like Moses, they had just come out from the presence of God. When you part with them you feel warmed by their company, as if your soul had been near a fire.” **J.C. Ryle**

[Hold fast to] the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. **Colossians 2:19**

“Resolved, to strive to my utmost every week to be brought higher in religion, and to a higher exercise of grace, than I was the week before.” **Jonathan Edwards (30)**

2. Means: Hearing & Obeying the Word

“While God has called me to bear my grief for a lifetime, and to do so faithfully, he has not called me to bear the entire weight of it all at once. As that pile was made up of many bricks, a lifetime is made up of many days. The burden of a whole lifetime's grief would be far too heavy to bear and the challenge of a whole lifetime's faithfulness far too daunting to consider. But the God who knows my frailty has broken that assignment into little parts, little days, and has promised grace sufficient for each one of them. My challenge for today is not to bear the grief of a lifetime or to be faithful to the end, but only to carry today's grief and only to be faithful on this one little day that he has spread out before me.” **Tim Challies**

3. Context: The Local Church

“Some Christians try to go to heaven alone, in solitude. But believers are not compared to bears or lions or other animals that wander alone. Those who belong to Christ are sheep in this respect, that they love to get together. Sheep go in flocks, and so do God's people.” **Charles Spurgeon**

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? **Jeremiah 13:23**