SMS 85156-049 (84218) 07/28/1985
HOW TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH Mattoon, IL

INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 4:11-16**.
B. Everyone who is member of the Lord's church should be interested in church growth. It is God's will that the church should grow.
C. At the same time, the church should also be building itself up; that is, strengthening the members so they will continue to be faithful.
D. Paul speaks of this maturing process in Eph., chapter 4, a text we will look at today.
E. A commentary on this passage is Col. 1:28,29.

I. **THE CHURCH IS TO GROW AND MATURE AS INDIVIDUALS.**

A. Scripture text: Eph. 4:14.
B. In this verse we see two things that cause people to not grow:
   1. Novelty and popular fashion.
   2. Deceitful scheming by liars and false teachers.
C. Paul makes the analogy here to the brethren being like children who are greatly influenced by novelty, big promotions, popular fashion, and the like. We need not remain a child for long but continue to grow so that we might be able to see through what is false and what is real.
D. False doctrine is also spoken of as waves and wind. Waves carry a person where they wish, not where we wish. This is true of false doctrine in carries one away from the path he knows to be right. The wind is just the opposite, in that it carries things every direction, except the one you desire. Truly, Satan loves to lead men on this kind of path.
E. Such people as described in this verse are as those spoken of by William Barclay when he said, "They are always under the influence of the last person with whom they talked."
F. Paul also mentions liars and false teachers. We see that liars come in with their scheming to lead away those in the church. A false teacher may be sincere but only mis-instructed, while a liar is someone who purposely misleads while knowing the truth.

II. **THE CHURCH IS TO GROW IN ALL ASPECTS UNTO CHRIST.**

A. Scripture text: Eph. 4:15.
B. Jesus did the admonition in this verse; He loved while teaching the truth of gospel.
C. Even in Matthew 23 when Jesus was quite rough with the Pharisees, it was only after many days of love and patient that he attacked their hard hearts.
D. We need to be able to speak the truth in love wherever we are so we can build one another up. Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and taught him more perfectly. See also Gal. 6:1.
E. We need to be able to disagree and not be disagreeable.

III. **THE CHURCH IS TO GROW BY EACH MEMBER DOING ITS PART.**

A. Scripture text: Eph. 4:16.
B. The body of Christ is held together by the strength that each joint supplies. When one part of the body is weak, the entire body is to suffer with it.
C. When the church has weak members, not doing their part, then those members suffer and the church suffers.
D. Paul also says that each part must work properly. The work of the church needs to be organized to that it is smooth running. Even when only part of the body works, it is not working well and everything suffers.
E. Notice the words "every" and "each." Paul expects every capable member to do their part.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. The body of Christ can build itself up just as the human body can heal itself.
B. We help build up the body of Christ when we;
    1. Grow and mature as individuals.
    2. Grow in all aspects unto Christ.
    3. Do our part as a member of the body.
C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.