

THE CHURCH AS THE 'PERFECT MALE':
EPHESIANS 4:13 AND THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST
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"Growing Up as the Body of Christ" – 1 Corinthians

If, as we have seen, the maturity of the church is equal to the unity of the church, how is the corporate church to grow up? In 1 Corinthians, Paul deals with an immature congregation (cf. 1 Cor. 3:1-3) by exhorting them to be *one* in several practical areas. We also must embrace these imperatives if we are to advance in the unity that has been given to us through Christ.

1. We must dwell together peaceably (1 Cor. 1-4).
2. We must handle disputes internally (1 Cor. 6).
3. We must treat the Table honorably (1 Cor. 6, 10, 11).
4. We must proclaim one truth clearly (1 Cor. 12-14).