

Involvement in a local church and the exercise of our spiritual gifts are invaluable to the development of maturity.

Read Eph. 4: 11-16. What do you notice about the result of the many offices given to the Church? Is it not that the people will become more mature?

Spiritual growth is expected of a believer. We help each other by listening, by doing for others, and by just being there for those going through trials. All of these things we do in “one another” contexts are used by the Lord to help us grow. By doing these things we become effective and fruitful in our growth and knowledge in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our spiritual growth will not be without disagreements with our fellow believers. It is this tension that many times causes us to dig in to God’s Word and discover more about ourselves and the things that need to be addressed in our own lives.

The result is that we can grow to become more like Christ.

These disagreements can also help us to be patient with ourselves and our fellow believers.

We must encourage our fellow believers along with ourselves to continue in our meeting together. It is often too easy to sit back and say "I've earned some R & R", but beware of such thoughts. It is easy to slip back and rest on our spiritual accomplishments, or so we think. (Gal, 5: 22-23) The Fruit of the Spirit is practiced in relationship with others. We cannot love without someone to love. We cannot practice kindness without a recipient.

Many times it’s difficult to stay connected., especially if you do not consider yourself a “people person”. However, if we consider spiritual growth important, then we will do what we can to put ourselves in places where we can connect with others.

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Series: **Better We**

Connecting for Growth

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Acts 2:42 - 47

The Preamble of Growth =Tension

Pr 27:17 1Co 11:1 1Pe 2:21

The Prodding of Growth =Encouragement

1Sa 23:16 Ps 122:1

The Permanence of Growth =Accountability

Gal 6:1-2 James 5:16