

Series: *Marks of a Healthy Church*
Sermon #7: Discipleship & Growth
Ephesians 4:14-16

April 7, 2024
Pastor Sam Katchikian

Marks covered so far in our series:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) The Gospel (February 18) | 4) Conversion (March 10) |
| 2) Expository Preaching (February 25) | 5) Church Membership (March 24) |
| 3) Biblical Theology (March 3) | |

You can listen to each sermon at cbcgoderich.com

Introduction:

The contrast between Arctic/tundra shrubs & sequoia trees...

Penguins are to Antarctica and fish are to the ocean what discipleship is to the church. The natural, God-ordained environment where we follow Jesus and grow together is the local church!

How do we follow Jesus and grow together as a local church family?

1) The enemy of discipleship and growth: spiritual infancy (4:14)

The church needs to believe and build its life on knowing God more seriously: His holy character, His works and His word. In order for this to take place, we need sound doctrine.

When we are theologically unsuspecting; when we are comfortable remaining spiritual babies, that's when Satan loves to go to work. A church that stays light on biblical truth is Satan's favorite playground! He will entertain us with all kinds of shallow, deceitful, feel-good messages.

2) The method of discipleship and growth: truth + love (4:15a)

Together with our love for biblical truth we're equally passionate about loving fellow Christians at Calvary Baptist.

It is in the context of our 'Discipleship Pathways at CBC' that we speak the truth in love to one another as a local church family.

3) **The purpose of discipleship and growth: becoming more mature in Christ (4:15b)**

Jesus Christ is the ‘central nervous system’ of our entire Christian lives; our discipleship is always in relation to Christ’s Lordship over our eyes, our thoughts, our emotions, our words, our time management, our marriage, our relationships, etc... HE is the way we will grow up!

4) **The practical (congregational) beauty of discipleship and growth:**

it’s all-hands-on-deck (v.16)

The local church should function more like a symphony orchestra instead of a public bus.

This means your discipleship and growth requires **your commitment**... collectively, with others in the body of Christ at CBC.

Every Christian contributes something for the common good and health of the local church; there are no sluggish, idle or inactive members! **What will your part be in the life of CBC?**

The 20/80 Rule < **100/100 Rule**: 100% of the church doing 100% of the work—**together and in love!**

The ‘1-and-1 Principle’: Commit to at least one ‘discipleship pathway’ & one ministry to serve in. If we all do this, then by the grace of God we will see Jesus build CBC and we will grow!

“A mature Christian is easily edified.”

—*Matt Smethurst*

Recommended Resources for Further Study:

How to Grow: Applying the Gospel to All of Your Life (Darryl Dash)

Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus (Mark Dever)

Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines (David Mathis)

Bearing Fruit: What Happens when God’s People Grow (Robby Gallaty)

Deep Discipleship: How the Church Can Make Whole Disciples of Jesus (J.T. English)

Next Sunday (April 14) - Mark #7: Church Discipline (Matthew 18:15-20)