Sermon Outline

A. Christ Empowers His Church (vs. 15-16a):

1. Christ is the source from which the grace or power comes that makes it possible for us to grow.
2. Christ is the object and goal to which our growth takes place.
3. Present, active, indicative, 3rd person, singular, finite verb – Christ is continuously superior to all and has all authority so we can totally focus on growing up. Growth only takes place when we function under Christ authority.
   a) When the church of Ephesus removed Christ headship Christ threatens to pick up His lampstand (Revelation 2:1-7).
   b) He has all authority because as head all things are below His feet to the church (Ephesians 1:22).
4. To decide to grow up is a once and for all decision.
   a) **An action to stop** – no longer children (vs. 14).
   b) **An action to begin** – Grow up (vs. 15).
5. Moving from spiritual infancy to being drunk with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18). This is where the Holy Spirit completely rules over the flesh (Romans 8:5-11).
6. Spiritual growth continuously brings the parts (spiritual gifts) that make up the church or marriage together (Ephesians 4:7).
   a) When believers are spiritually maturing their spiritual gifts are at their best. All gifts come from the Holy Spirit (the Holy Spirit is the Helper of Christ) and all gifts make up on body which is the body of Christ.
   b) The church is the body of Christ and a holy temple (Ephesians 1:22; 2:21) so it is always being fitted together.
   c) The church is made up a spiritual maturing man and woman (Christ and the church – Ephesians 5:32) so that they fitted together fitly in marriage.
7. When the parts are continuously fitted together through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (passive verb – no one does this on their own) nothing can take it apart – no divorce. It is the flesh that leads to dissension (Galatians 5:20-21).
   a) Every person that is led by the Spirit is shaped to be suitable for the church and marriage and what they provide to either relationship is a constant supply of the Spirit that blesses each believer whether it is the church or marriage (Ephesians 4:1-7).
b) Whatever energy is applied to God fitting us together is dependent on the actions that each individual part produces based on the empowerment and direction of the Holy Spirit.

B. The Empowered Church Stimulates Growth in Every Believer (vs. 16c):

1. A church functioning under the direction and influence of the Holy Spirit empowers the use of spiritual gifts. When these gifts are working properly everyone in the church is built up.
2. Spiritual gifts functioning at their optimum level empowers the church.
4. Spiritual growth in each believer’s life profits everyone and becomes natural (building up ITSELF). This becomes the nature of what everyone is doing in the church. It becomes the culture of the church.
5. The outgrowth of Spirit empowered love is that it leads to love flowing to all (Matthew 22:27-40; Ephesians 3:16-19). It is what the person needs (charity) not what they may want.