

Study Guide

Message: *The Work of Building a Healthy Church*

Messenger: Pastor Keith

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Scripture: Ephesians 4.15-16 (NLT)



Introduction: Our Scripture helps us understand how we unite in purpose to do the work of building a healthy church.

1. _____ teaching: v15. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

Key Point: We teach truth in love, rooted in Scripture that helps build the church to mature more like Christ. Healthy biblical teaching involves both truth and love.

Biblical truth:

- Aligns you with Christ's character and purpose
- Doesn't shift with culture, opinion, or emotion
- Brings clarity, conviction, and correction for growth

Truth in love:

- Heals wounds and does not create scars
- Convicts without condemnation
- Creates a safe space for confession of sins

What it looks like: At NWCC, we teach biblical truth in love to build our church in Christ. Truth that convicts and corrects us to grow more like Christ, and love that provides a safe space to confess our weaknesses, so we can continue growing in Him.

2. _____ connection: v16a. He (Christ) makes the whole body fit together perfectly.

Key Point: Church is a Body, not a building; perfectly and intentionally joined together by Christ, not formed by chance.

- Church is made up of followers called by Christ
- Christ is the Head, and we are the Body – hands, feet, eyes, etc.
- Church lives in unity, diversity, and in love as one Body in Christ

What it looks like: At NWCC, we connect to build our Body through covenant relationships to promote, protect, and prosper our community.

- **Promote:** Uphold the church - W.O.R.D. ministries: **W**orkmanship – you use your gifts to serve in ministry; **O**utreach – you go into the world as an influencer for Christ; **R**elationship – you build close bonds in community groups; **D**iscipleship – you grow in discipline like Christ

- **Protect:** Cover the church
 - Peacemaker – maintain unity
 - Pray over – guidance and hedge
 - Persevere – hold on to others
- **Prosper:** Bless the church
 - Tithes – first ten percent
 - Offerings - \$100 monthly
 - Firstfruits – Double tithes and offering – January

‘The people are united, nothing they propose to do will be impossible for them.’

3. _____ commitment: v16b. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Key Point: The Body of Christ grows healthy not by the work of a few, but the commitment of all to help others grow, and No part is unnecessary; everyone matters. The Body of Christ is healthy when it is united, every member is committed to growing spiritually (maturing in the word), growing relationally (deeper Christ-centered relationships), and growing numerically (reaching others with the gospel). The Body is overflowing with *selfless love* putting others first like Christ.

‘A Builder’s commitment is to *ministry*, to *people*, and to *God’s glory*.’

What it looks like: At NWCC, we become Body Builders who commit to covenant relationship to help build our church Body by putting the W.O.R.D.S. we teach in their hearts to obey them:

1. Workmanship: Using your gifts to serve in ministry
2. Outreach: Going to influence the world for Christ
3. Relationship: Joining community groups to build relationships
4. Discipleship: Living by God’s Word to grow like Christ
5. Stewardship: Sharing from generosity (tithes, offerings, firstfruits)

Reflection:

1. Am speaking the truth in love?
2. In what ways am I growing like Christ?
3. How am I actively connected to the body?
4. Do I use my gifts to serve others in the church?
5. Am I committed to help others grow in Christ?
6. What does it look like to invest in someone’s growth in Christ?
7. Am I committed to the overall health of our church? (Body Builder)