

## Maturity

---

N M A I I W B P F Y  
E A C H C A P E A W  
L T H S A S B O I O  
O U R B L C B P T R  
R R I E L E O L H K  
D E S C E N D E D S  
W V T O D D Y I A P  
H E P M P E V G S I  
O R T E M D N D S R  
L Y G A V E Y O D I  
E G R O W L O V E T

As a prisoner for the **Lord**, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the **calling** you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in **love**. Make **every** effort to keep the unity of the **Spirit** through the bond of peace. There is one **body** and one **Spirit**, just as you were **called** to one hope when you were **called**; one **Lord**, one **faith**, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to **each** one of us grace has been given as **Christ** apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he **ascended** on high, he took many captives and **gave** gifts to his **people**.” (What does “he **ascended**” mean except that he also **descended** to the lower, earthly regions? He who **descended** is the very one who **ascended** higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the **whole** universe.) So **Christ** himself **gave** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his **people** for **works** of service, so that the **body** of **Christ** may be built up until we all reach unity in the **faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to the **whole** measure of the fullness of **Christ**. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by **every** wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of **people** in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in **love**, we will **grow** to **become** in **every** respect the **mature body** of him who is the head, that is, **Christ**. From him the **whole body**, joined and held together by **every** supporting ligament, **grows** and builds itself up

in **love**, as **each** part does its **work**.  
(NIV)