INTRODUCTION:
1. The church must grow or die.
2. Congregations have personality and character.
   a. They will grow and develop according to God's plan, or,
   b. Commit spiritual suicide through inactivity
3. God planned and purposed the church. Eph. 3:10. He has a plan for the church to be edified, a plan that will develop the church.

DISCUSSION:
I. Let the church work for unity. Eph. 4:3
A. Religious division (in or out of the church) is a great hinderance to growth.
   1. Jesus knew the importance of unity. John 17:20,21
   2. Paul said, "Give diligence to keep"it. Eph. 4:3
   3. Unity is not an accident looking for a congregation where it can happen; it is the reward of an earnest endeavor to keep it.
B. Unity begins in the heart of each member of the church. Jas. 4:1-6

II. Let the church "speak the truth." Eph. 4:15
A. Never was a congregation established without preaching and/or teaching.
   1. Church in Jerusalem. Acts 2:37,40,41,47
   2. Church in Corinth. Acts 18:8
B. A church cannot survive if it ceases to preach and teach the truth.
   1. The first apostasy developed because men quit preaching the truth. 1 Tim. 4:1-4;
   2. Tim. 4:1-4
   2. The church is dependent upon God's truth.
C. A congregation will be no stronger than:
   1. The Bible study program on Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, and in the home.
   2. The preaching ("As goes the pulpit so goes the pew.

III. Every member working. Eph. 4:16
A. A church cannot grow unless each member functions.
1. There are no inferior members. 1 Cor. 12:20ff
2. No preacher can do all the work of the church.
3. In the average congregation today too many are willing to "let George do it;" shift responsibility.
4. Think of the power lying dormant in most congregations today!
B. How can the church be stirred to work? Convert it! Tit. 2:14; 1 Thess. 1:9

IV. Godly living edifies the church. Eph. 4:17-30
A. Church may use every "high pressure" scheme known, but it will fail to "let its light shine" unless the members live godly lives.
B. The members of the church must "put off" and "put on" the things listed. Eph. 4:17-30

CONCLUSION
1. Summary of lesson
2. Will you accept your responsibility to God and man to build the church?
3. Labor is not in vain. 1 Cor. 15:58