

How is the Church like an Arch?
Colossians 1:9-14 & 21-29

The main reason people avoid truly engaging in a local church is this: a withered, immature, and _____ understanding of the God-given importance of the church and of the _____ we are called to do our faith together rather than separately.

Paul's statement about the importance of the church gathered and sharing together is this: "so that we may present everyone _____ in Christ." The church scattered is on mission to bring people to Christ. Gathered, our purpose is to encourage one another to _____ toward _____ in Christ.

This text outlines the ways in which Paul and we ourselves can be involved in helping present everyone fully mature in Christ. The first and most important way is continual _____. Praying for one another is ultimately an acknowledgement that meaningful maturity in Christ is a work of _____ in our lives.

A 2nd way we help one another mature is what Paul calls "_____ for you." Suffering is the way Christ accomplished His greatest work, so His continued work will require some suffering by His _____—us. Being willing to suffer for the sake of one another, even the one causing the suffering, is a gift of _____ that helps others to mature.

A 3rd way of contributing to the maturing of one another is _____ one another. The church that truly helps toward the goal of presenting everyone fully mature in Christ is the one that challenges its congregation to serve, not to _____, to _____ more than they receive, and to _____ even more than they are loved.

Finally, the text mentions the things we would expect to aid one another in maturity: "_____, _____, and _____ everyone with all wisdom." Learn, proclaim, encourage, and teach when you can. You'll mature and help others to as well.

A church is like an _____—you and your brothers and sisters, _____ alone but leaning together we become _____.