

Which of these will help your body to grow?



What kind of *growth* do we want?

WBC Vision Statement

*By the power of the Holy Spirit,
through new life in Christ and
communion with the Father,
Waxhaw Bible Church exists
to glorify God.*

WBC Core Values





This church body is a community of faith - a place to belong, to be loved, and to show love to others. Therefore we will edify, support, and hold one another accountable to follow Christ's example.

Building Up the Body

Eph. 4:15-16

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- *Building Up the Body*

1. A Community of Faith
2. A Commitment to Edify
3. A Cooperation of Support
4. A Contract for Accountability

1. A Community of Faith

- It is Inclusive

- No one left out because of “race,” gender, nationality, socio-economic status (Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 2:11-21)
 - Only one “race” (Acts 17:26)
 - Differences should be celebrated, not ignored (Rev. 5:9; 7:9)

1. A Community of Faith

- And yet Exclusive

- Only those who *believe* (cf. Acts 2:44; 4:4; 5:14; 8:12; 16:31)

- The gospel (Rom. 1:16), the truth (1 Tim. 3:15), and the faith (Eph. 4:13)

- Holy *behavior* (1 Pet. 1:14-16; cf. 1 Cor. 5; Matt. 18:17)

1. A Community of Faith

- Built on Love

- Based on God's love for us (Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:10)

- Sacrificial love toward one another (1 Cor. 12-13; 1 John 3:16)

- Mutual (John 15:12-17; 1 John 4:7)

2. A Commitment to Edify

- “Let all things be done for edification.” (1 Cor. 14:26b)
 - *Edification – building up* -> causing profitable growth
 - Becoming more like Jesus (Eph. 4:13)

2. A Commitment to Edify

- Using our Spiritual Gifts
 - “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Cor. 12:7)
 - “So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.” (1 Cor. 14:12)

2. A Commitment to Edify

- Using our words
 - “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” (Eph. 4:29)

2. A Commitment to Edify

- Using the Word

- “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32; cf. Col. 3:16)

2. A Commitment to Edify

- On the Faith

- “...I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.” (Jude 3)

- “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith...” (Jude 20)

3. A Cooperation of Support

- We are to Help one another
 - “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”
(Acts 20:35; cf. Gal. 6:10)

3. A Cooperation of Support

- We are to Share with one another
 - “And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Heb. 13:16)
 - “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; ... contributing to the needs of the saints” (Rom. 12:10-13)

4. A Contract for Accountability

- Heb. 3:12-19

- The Warning: *an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God (12)*
- The Preventative: *encourage [exhort] one another day after day (13); hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end (14)*

4. A Contract for Accountability

- Matt. 18:15-17
 - We must deal with sin in one another
- Luke 17:1-4
 - “If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.” (3b)
- “REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.” (1 Cor. 5:12b)

4. A Contract for Accountability

- Titus 3:10-11

- “Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.”

4. A Contract for Accountability

- Col. 1:28

- “We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.”

4. A Contract for Accountability

- Col. 3:16

- “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

So What?

- Church is not a spectator sport
 - God's expectation is that we are all involved and all contributing to the growth of the body
 - When we all do that, we will all have our needs met, too

So What?

- You are as connected as you want to be
 - Are you willing to build community?
 - Are you willing to love others?
 - Are you willing to share?
 - Do you want accountability?

So What?

- “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” (1 Thess. 5:11)

We Exist to Glorify God