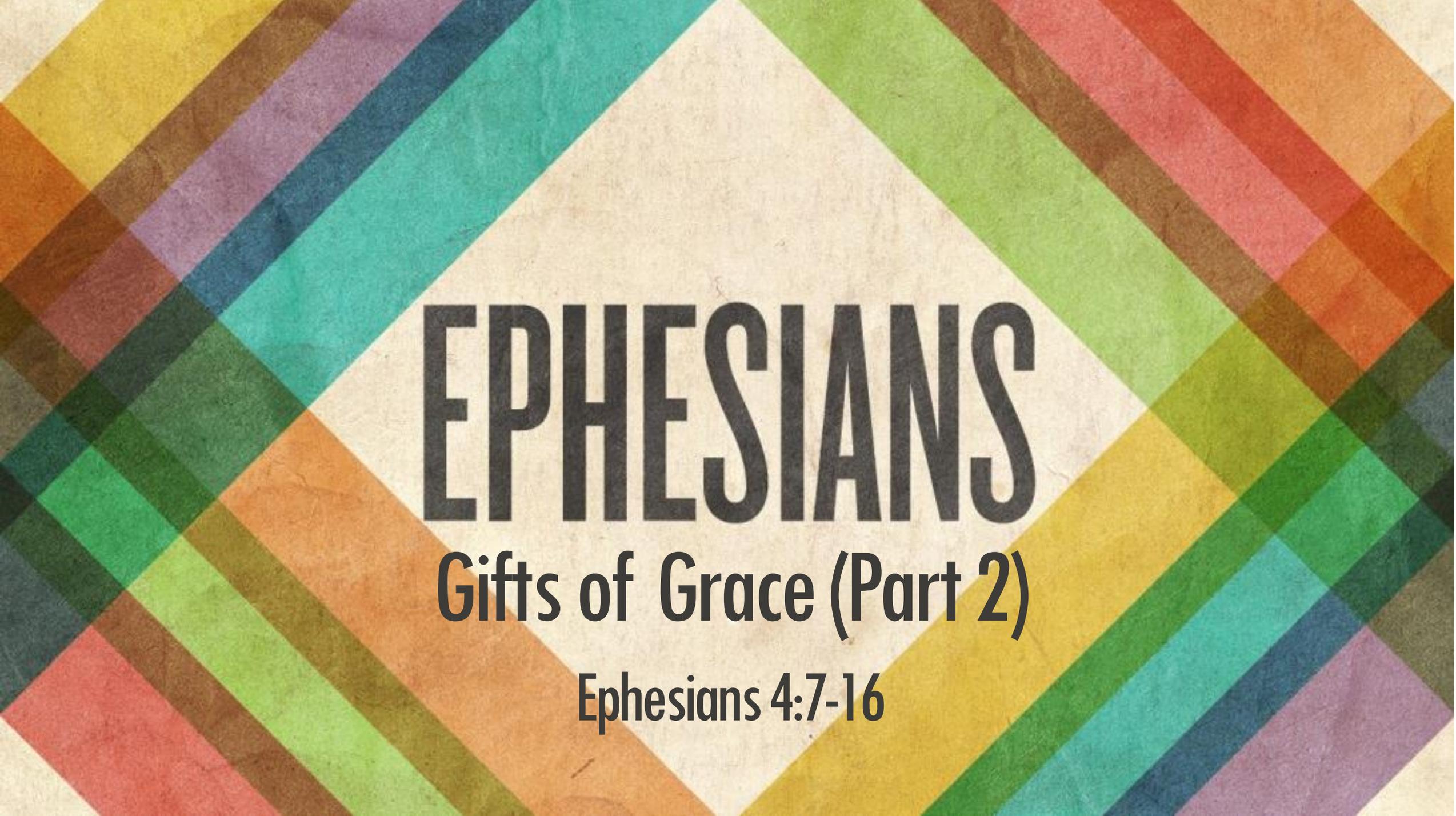




EPHESIANS

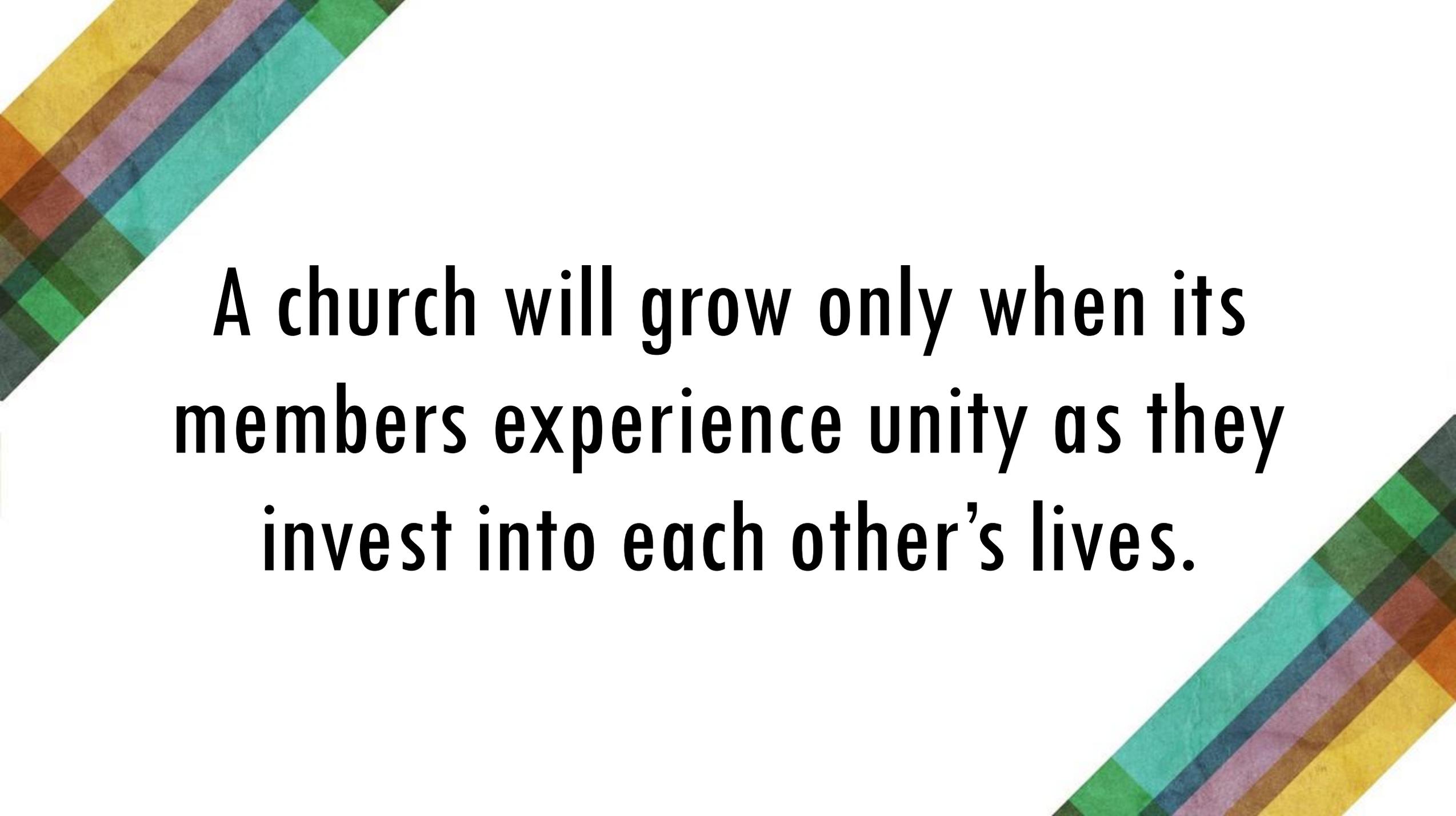
A LIFE SPENT FOLLOWING CHRIST



EPHESIANS

Gifts of Grace (Part 2)

Ephesians 4:7-16



A church will grow only when its members experience unity as they invest into each other's lives.



One Faith, One Lord

- Our goal is to have unity in faith and knowledge
 - *And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.* Acts 2:40-47



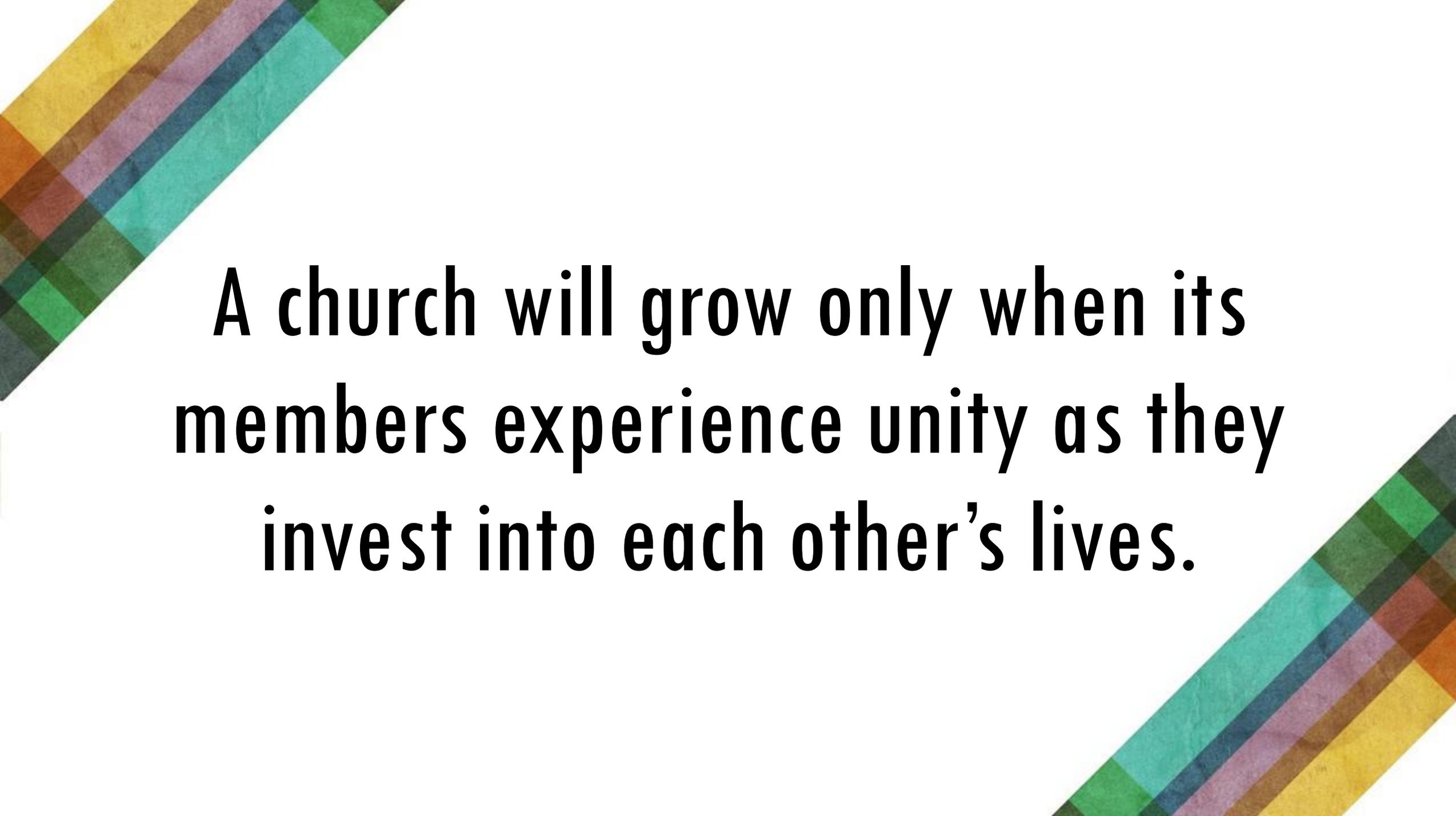
No Peter Pan Christians

- Following Christ means becoming more mature in your faith
 - *Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.*
1 Corinthians 14:20
 - *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*
Ephesians 5:1-2
- A mature Christian is a loving Christian
 - *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.*
2 Thessalonians 1:3-4



Unity Through Investment

- Unity requires all members be invested
 - *God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 1 Cor 12:24-26*
- Growth requires love
 - *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 1 Peter 2:1-3*



A church will grow only when its members experience unity as they invest into each other's lives.