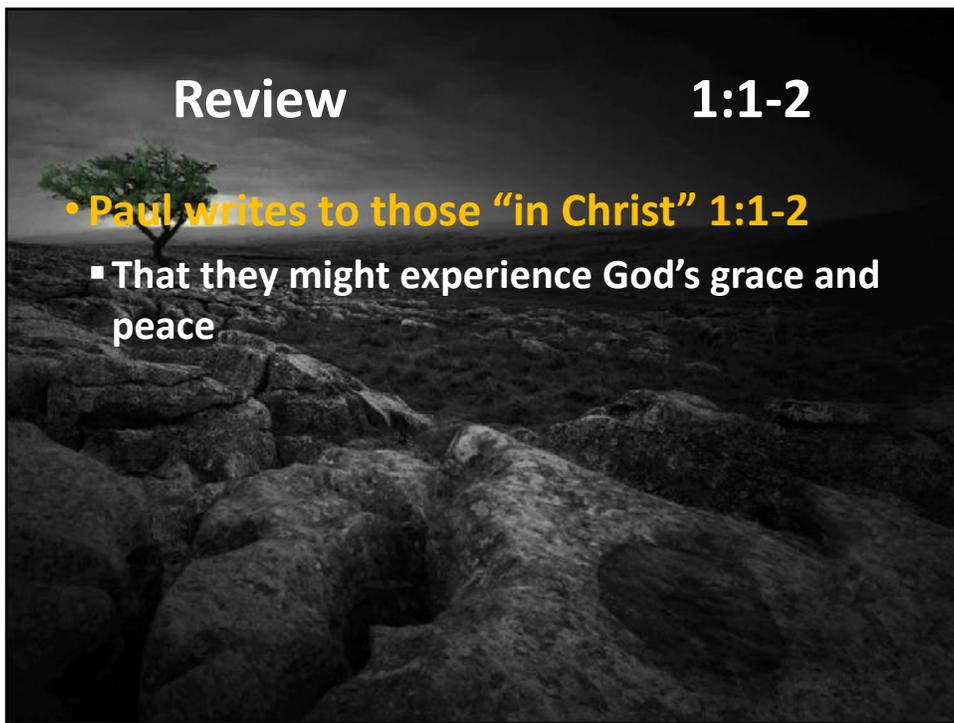


Question

- **Last week we asked,**
 - What does maturity look like?
 - The subject continue
- **Agree or disagree with the follow statement**
 - “Nothing harms the testimony of a church more than disunity.”

Question

- **When has the “body” ministered to you?**
 - What did they do?
- **What is the role of the church in you growth?**



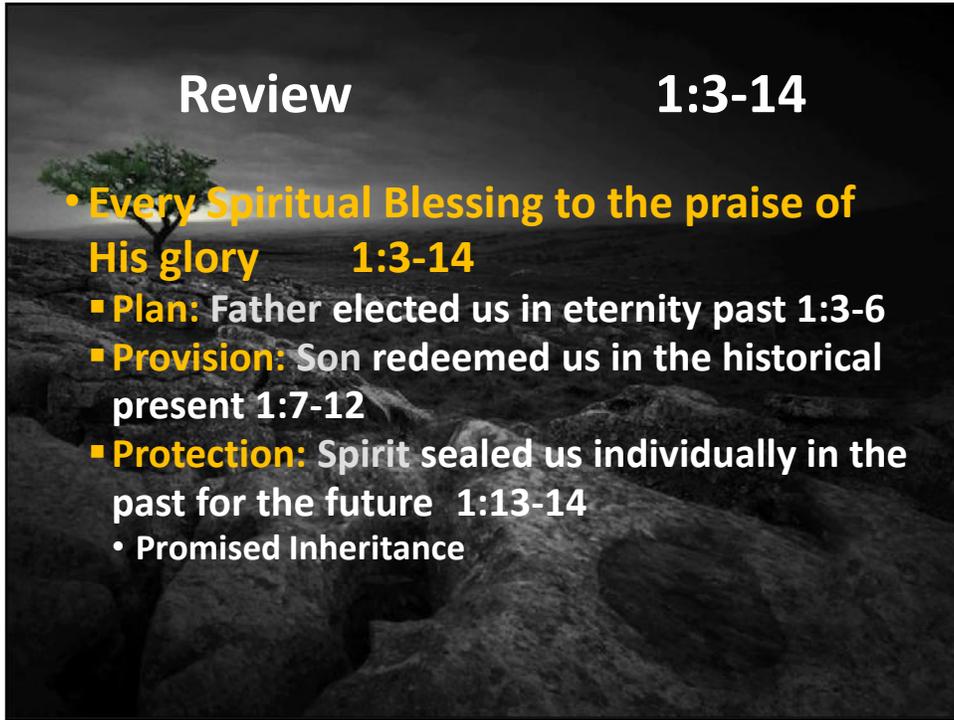
Review **1:1-2**

- **Paul writes to those “in Christ” 1:1-2**
 - That they might experience God’s grace and peace



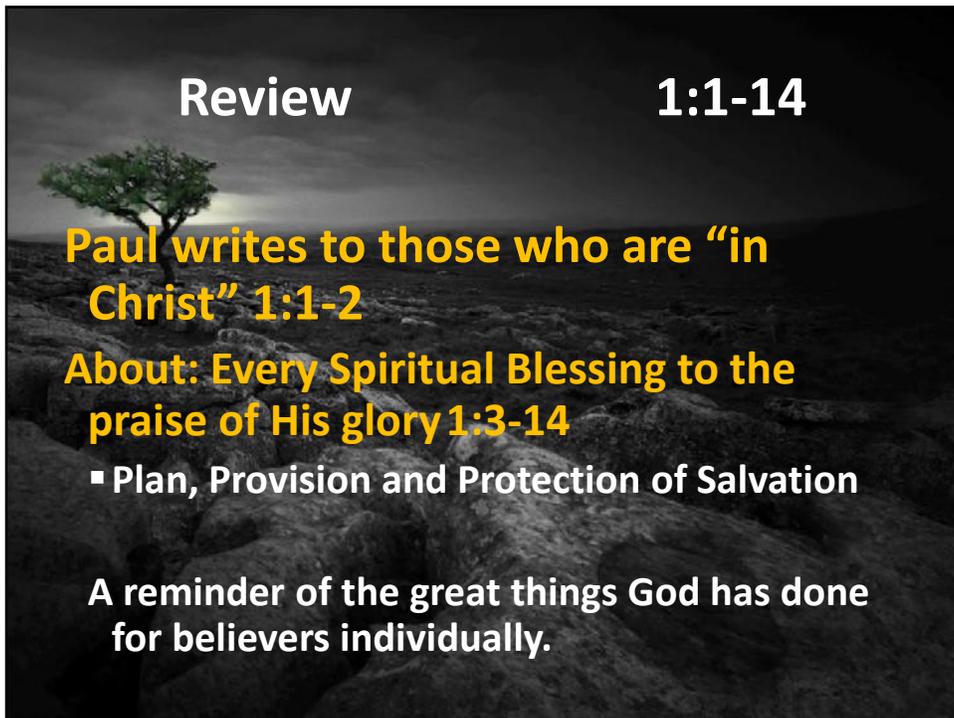
Review **1:3-14**

- **Every Spiritual Blessing to the praise of His glory 1:3-14**
 - **Plan:** Father elected us in eternity past 1:3-6
 - To be holy and blameless adopted sons
 - **Provision:** Son redeemed us in the historical present 1:7-12
 - Superabounding grace
 - Redeemed, Forgiven, Informed and Inheritance



Review **1:3-14**

- **Every Spiritual Blessing to the praise of His glory 1:3-14**
 - **Plan:** Father elected us in eternity past 1:3-6
 - **Provision:** Son redeemed us in the historical present 1:7-12
 - **Protection:** Spirit sealed us individually in the past for the future 1:13-14
 - Promised Inheritance



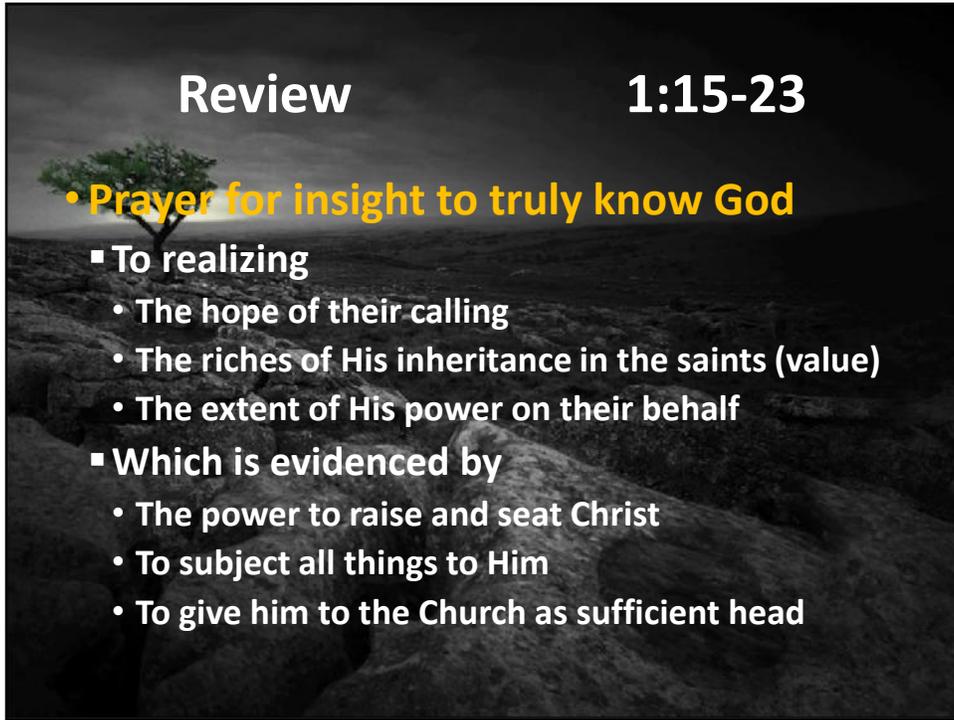
Review **1:1-14**

Paul writes to those who are “in Christ” 1:1-2

About: Every Spiritual Blessing to the praise of His glory 1:3-14

- Plan, Provision and Protection of Salvation

A reminder of the great things God has done for believers individually.



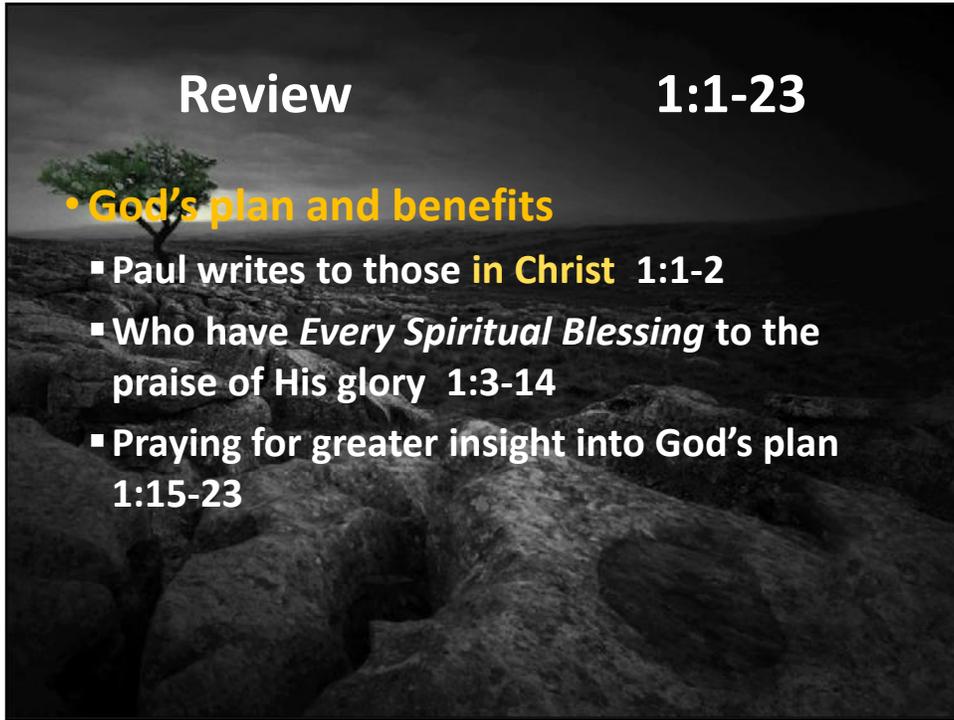
Review **1:15-23**

- **Prayer for insight to truly know God**
 - **To realizing**
 - The hope of their calling
 - The riches of His inheritance in the saints (value)
 - The extent of His power on their behalf
 - **Which is evidenced by**
 - The power to raise and seat Christ
 - To subject all things to Him
 - To give him to the Church as sufficient head



Review **1:1-23**

- **God's plan and benefits** **1:1-23**
 - Paul writes to those in Christ 1:1-2
 - Who have Every Spiritual Blessing to the praise of His glory 1:3-14
 - Praying for greater insight into God's plan 1:15-23
- **Steps towards fulfilling God's plan** **2:1—3:21**
 - God's plan applied to individuals (2:1-10)



Review **1:1-23**

- **God's plan and benefits**
 - Paul writes to those **in Christ** 1:1-2
 - Who have *Every Spiritual Blessing* to the praise of His glory 1:3-14
 - Praying for greater insight into God's plan 1:15-23



Review **2:1—3:21**

- **Steps towards fulfilling God's plan 2:1—3:21**
 - God's plan applied to individuals (2:1-10)
 - Everyman's condition apart from God 2:1-3
 - "But God"
 - Rich in mercy
 - Based on His grace provided a relationship with Him
 - Obtained through faith
 - For the purpose of revealing God's grace through actions



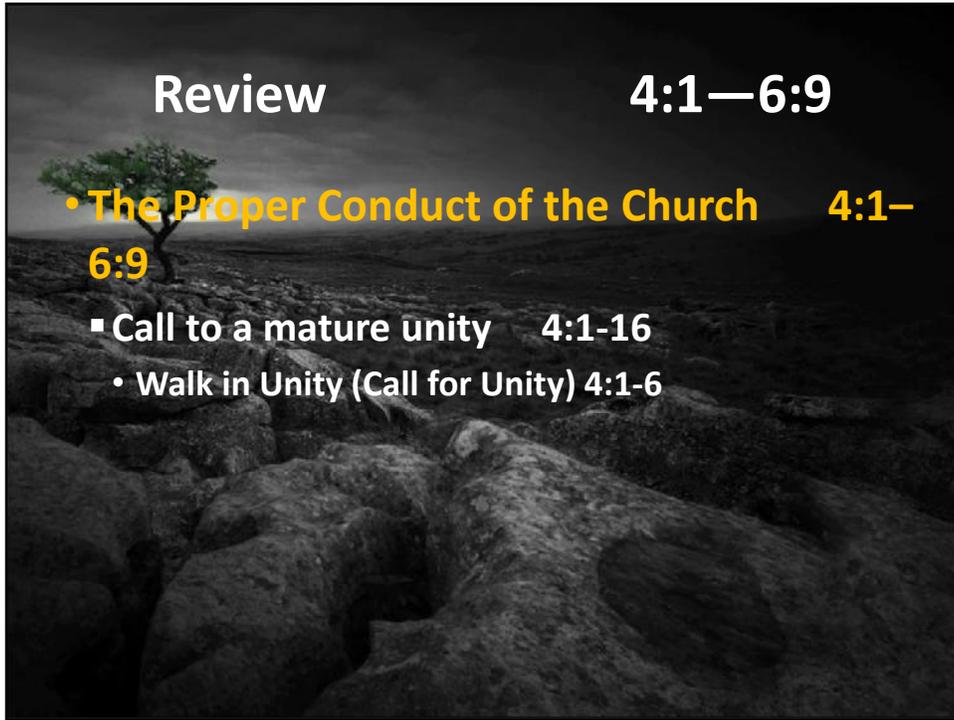
Review **2:1—3:21**

- **Steps toward fulfilling God's Plan**
2:1—3:13
 - God's plan applied to individuals (2:1-10)
 - God's plan applied corporately (2:11-22)
 - Those who (Gentiles) were formerly hopeless, separated from God's promises, Messiah and people
 - Now have been brought into one new entity (The Church)



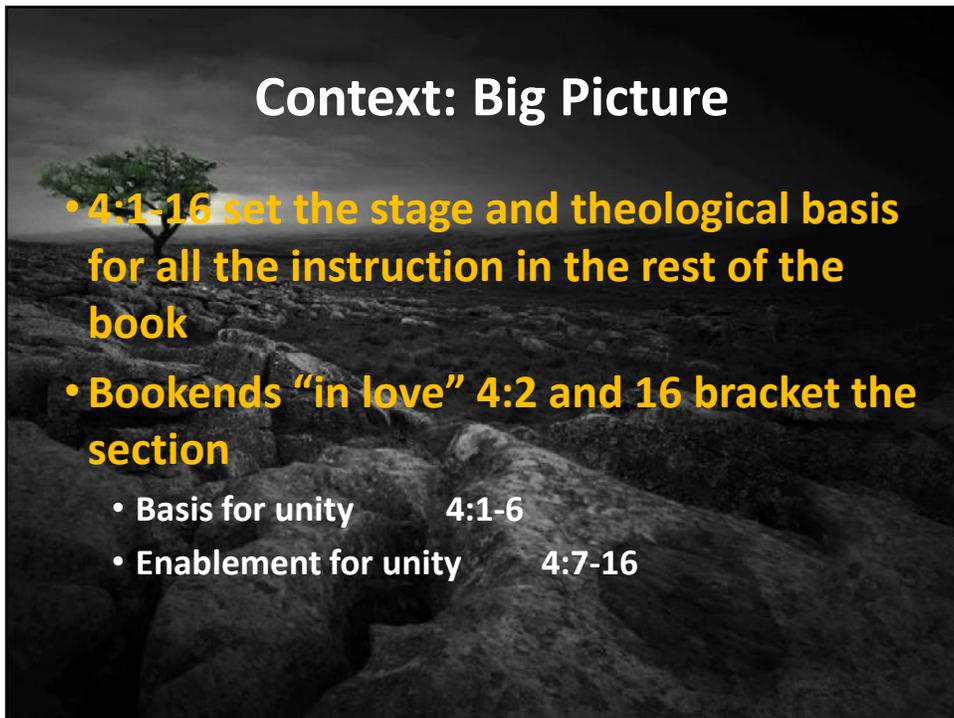
Review **2:1—3:21**

- **Steps toward fulfilling God's Plan** **2:1—3:13**
 - God's plan applied to individuals (2:1-10)
 - God's plan applied corporately (2:11-22)
 - Expanding on the mystery: corporate identity (3:1-13)
 - Prayer for the Ephesians to know and experience Christ's love and experience maturity filled by God 3:14-19
 - The impossibly big prayer for intimacy and to be total consumed with God
 - Doxology: Praise to God for His superabounding 3:20-21



Review **4:1—6:9**

- **The Proper Conduct of the Church** **4:1—6:9**
 - Call to a mature unity **4:1-16**
 - Walk in Unity (Call for Unity) **4:1-6**

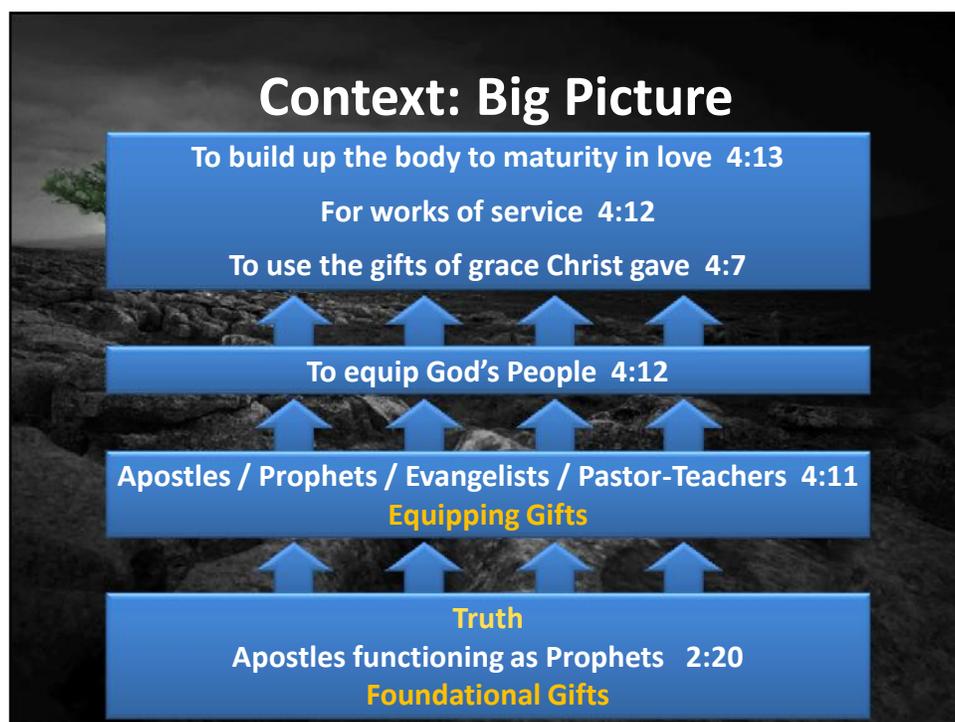


Context: Big Picture

- **4:1-16 set the stage and theological basis for all the instruction in the rest of the book**
- **Bookends “in love” 4:2 and 16 bracket the section**
 - Basis for unity **4:1-6**
 - Enablement for unity **4:7-16**

Context: Big Picture

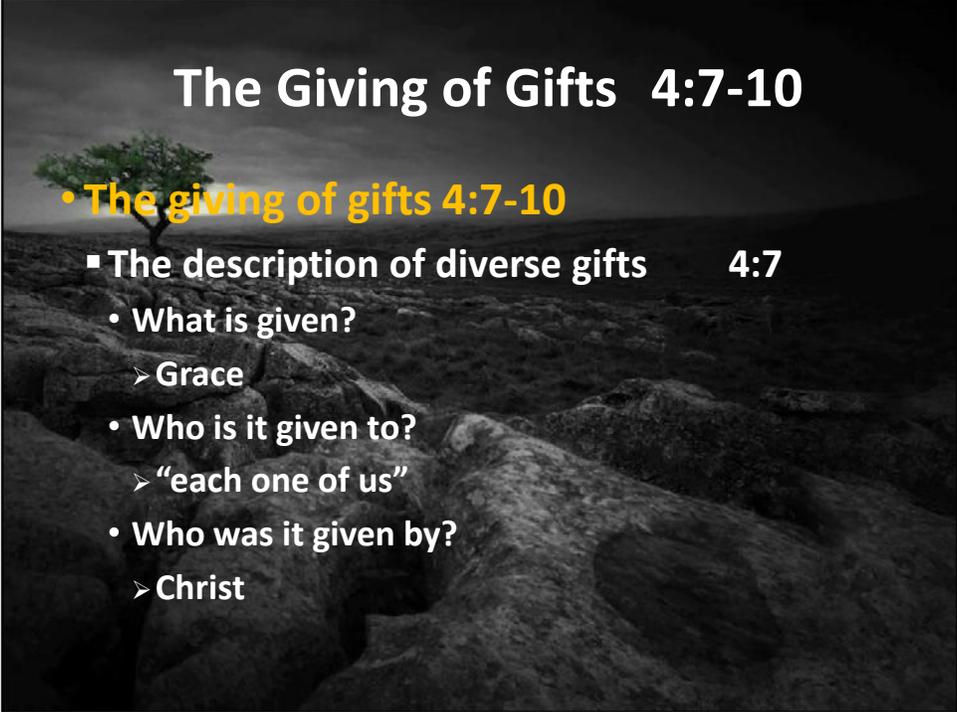
- **Key Point #1:**
 - Maturity requires everyone doing their part
- **Key point # 2:**
 - Growing to maturity requires growing together in truthful love





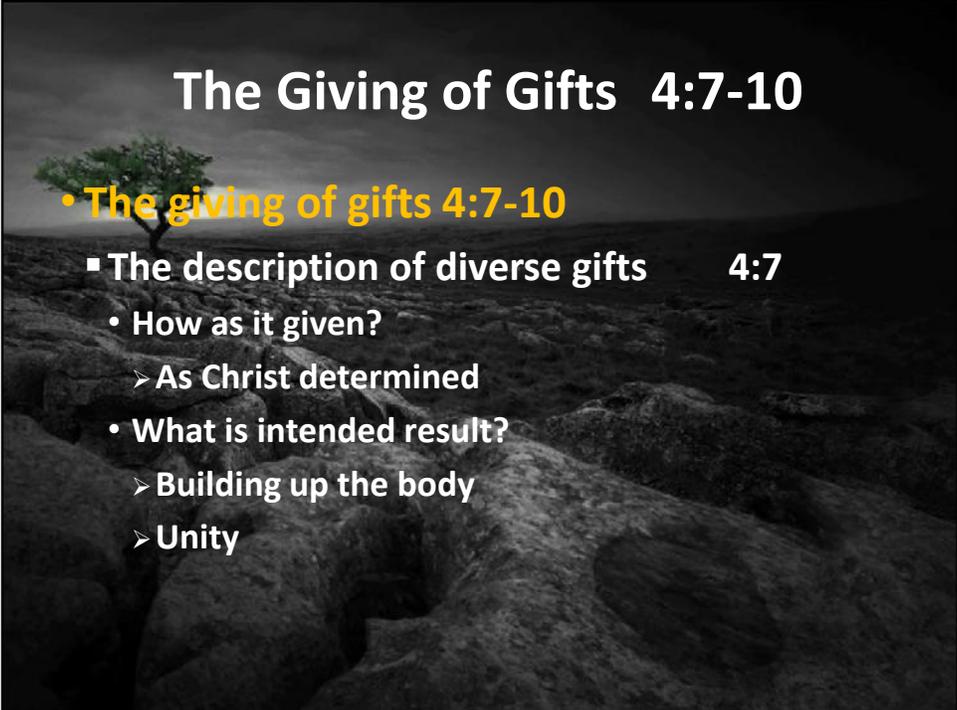
The Enablement for Unity 4:7-16

- **The giving of gifts 4:7-10**
 - “but”
 - The subject of 4:1-6 was living out the unity we have
 - The contrast is the diversity which God enables for the benefit of unity and maturity.



The Giving of Gifts 4:7-10

- **The giving of gifts 4:7-10**
 - **The description of diverse gifts 4:7**
 - What is given?
 - Grace
 - Who is it given to?
 - “each one of us”
 - Who was it given by?
 - Christ



The Giving of Gifts 4:7-10

- **The giving of gifts 4:7-10**
 - **The description of diverse gifts 4:7**
 - How as it given?
 - As Christ determined
 - What is intended result?
 - Building up the body
 - Unity

The Giving of Gifts 4:7-10

• The giving of gifts 4:7-10

- The description of diverse gifts 4:7
- The validation of the gifts 4:8-10
 - There is a textual issues
 - Paul's modification of Psalm 68:18

Psalm 68:18

- You ascended on high,
- leading a host of captives in your train
- and receiving gifts among men,
- even among the rebellious,
- that the LORD God may dwell there. (ESV)

Ephesians 4:8

- "When he ascended on high
- he led a host of captives,
- and he gave gifts to men." (ESV)

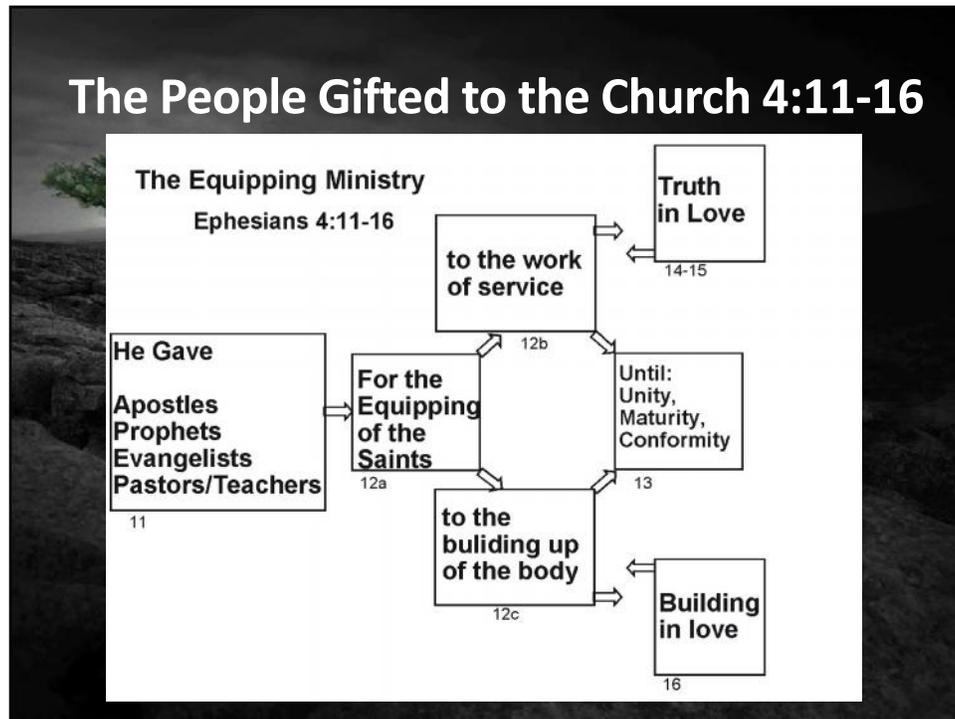
The Giving of Gifts 4:7-10

- **The giving of gifts 4:7-10**
 - The description of diverse gifts 4:7
 - The validation of the gifts 4:8-10
 - There is a textual issues
 - Paul's modification of Psalm 68:18
 - There is an interpretive issue
 - The two key terms—descend and ascend—what do they refer to?
 - That might or might not leave a theological issues
 - Did Christ descend to hell?

The People Gifted to the Church 4:11-16

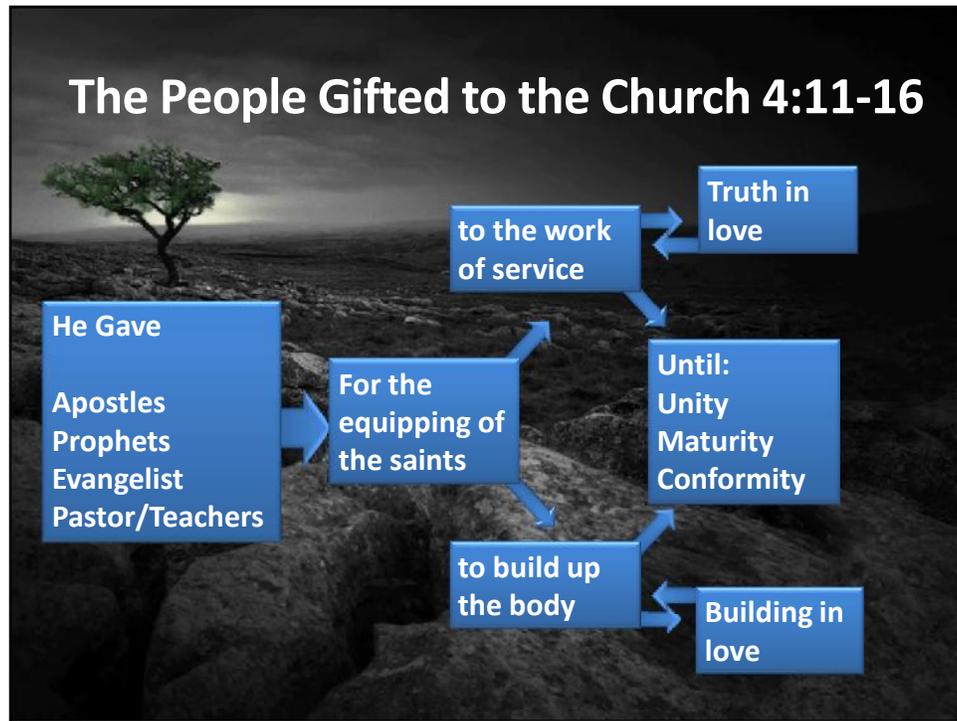
- **Provision: Gifted people 4:11**
 - Clarification
 - Paul is talking about gifted people, given to the church, not necessarily offices
 - Apostles
 - Prophets
 - Evangelist
 - Pastor/shepherd-teacher

The People Gifted to the Church 4:11-16



The People Gifted to the Church 4:11-16

- **Provision: Gifted people 4:11**
 - Clarification
 - Paul is taking about gifted people, given to the church, not necessarily offices.
 - Apostles
 - Prophets
 - Evangelist
 - Pastor/shepherd-teacher



Summary

- **Key Point #1:**
 - Growing to maturity requires growing together in truthful love
- **Key point # 2:**
 - Maturity requires everyone doing their part

Summary

- **The goal of the church is to grow up—together**
 - by everyone doing their part
 - by practicing the truth in love
- **When this happens the body will grow in love—the unity and maturity that are the aim—will be reached**

Application

Part how we grow in maturity is through our interaction with others. The need to maintain unity which at times requires us to give up our rights or to step out of our comfort zone to confront, will not only help maintain unity, but develop maturity.