

Ephesians: Blessed Beyond Belief

To Build up the Body

Walk in Unity

Ephesians 4:7-16 Enablement for Unity

- 7 But grace was given to each one of us
according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- 8 Therefore it says,
"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."
9 (In saying, "He ascended,"
what does it mean but that he also had descended
into the lower regions, the earth?
10 He who descended
is the one who also ascended
far above all the heavens,
that he might fill all things.)
- 11 And he gave
the apostles,
the prophets,
the evangelists,
the shepherds and teachers,
- 12 to equipping the saints
for the work of ministry,
for building up of the body Christ,
- 13 until we all attain
to the unity of the faith,
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to a mature manhood,
to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- 14 so that we may no longer be children,
tossed to and fro by waves
and carried about by every wind of doctrine,
by human cunning,
by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
- 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love,
we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
16 from whom the whole body,
joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped,
when each part is working properly,
makes the body growth so that it builds itself up in love.

Review

1:1-3:21 Positional Unity of the Church

1:1-23 God's (life insurance) plan and benefits

2:1-3:21 Steps towards fulfilling God's plan

2:1-10 God's plan (1:3-14) applied to individuals

2:11-22 New Corporate identity

We who were hopeless, separated from God, His promises and His people—have been brought near into a new entity—the Church.

2:13-22 Now have been brought near to God, being made into a new man—entity, the Church

3:1-13 The mystery of the Church is revealed after Christ

3:14-21 Prayer and Praise

3:14-19 Prayer for the Ephesians to know and experience Christ's love and experience maturity filled by God (The impossibly big prayer for intimacy and to be total consumed with God)

3:20-21 Doxology: Praise to God for His superabounding

4:1–6:9 The Proper Conduct of the Church

4:1-16 Call to a mature unity

4:1-6 Walk in Unity (Call for Unity)

Exposition

V. God's plan applied corporately 2:11-22

VI. Expanding on the mystery: Paul's role and their benefits 3:1-13

VII. Paul's Prayer for the New Community 3:14-21

VIII. Proper Conduct in the Church 4:1–6:9

A. Walk in Unity 4:1-16

1. Basis for unity 4:1-6

2. Enablement for unity 4:7-16

a. The giving of gifts 4:7-10

1) The description of diverse gifts 4:7

2) The validation of the gifts 4:8-10

b. The people who are given as gifts: to equip for maturity and unity 4:11-16

1) Provision: Gifted persons 4:11

2) Preparatory purpose: Equip for ministry 4:12

3) Goal: Attain maturity 4:13

4) Ultimate purpose: Growth in unity 4:14-16

(a) Negative: What is the opposite of the purpose? 4:14

(b) Positive: What do the mature do? 4:15-16

(i) Speak the truth in love 4:15a

(ii) Grow up 4:15b-16

Application

Key Point #1: Growing to maturity requires growing together in truthful love

Key point # 2: Maturity requires everyone doing their part

The reality is that part of the way 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.