

Because We Sit, We Can Mature

Lesson #5: Eph. 4:1-16

Vs.1 **The Introduction** : Live a Life Worthy of Your Calling

Vs. 2 **“Be Completely:”**

1. Humble:
Being conscious of our own unworthiness, realizing we are the creatures (not the creator)

Having a humble opinion of one’s self (See Rom. 12:3)
2. Gentle: power under control, a kind of meekness (not “milk toast”)
Every instinct and passion are under perfect control and therefore useful

Remember, the only place where Jesus describes Himself is Matthew 11:29
3. Bearing with one another-It is the idea of holding one another up. See the Fruit of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22
4. Loving-A practical definition of real, Godly love: Putting someone else’s needs before your own. Take a look at I Cor. 13:4-6

Vs. 3 -6 **“Endeavoring** (make a real, sincere effort) **to Keep the Unity of the Spirit”**

“We have in common the things that matter most.”

1. Remember, unity is NOT uniformity
2. The “bond of peace” is a picture of how ligaments work in our body. They hold everything together. It is a picture of how the church is supposed to operate.
3. He makes reference to seven specific things that we must keep in view from the bond of unity:

One Body
One Spirit
One Hope
One Lord
One Faith
One Baptism
One God over ALL

Note the “exclusive” message that is implied. Consider the claim in John 14:6.

Vs. 7-10 An interesting **Parenthetical Section**

At first glance, this is a reference to Christ’s ascension and the passage highlights His conquest over sin, Satan, the world, the grave and so on. See Col. 2:15

Paul is quoting Psalm 68:18

This passage may also be referring to a concept known as “Leading Captivity Captive:” referring to the “redeeming” activities Christ was involved in during the time He was in the grave (prior to His resurrection.)

Vs. 11-15 **Paul returns to the discussion of the gifting God has given His people**

Remember He has discussed this truth in I Cor. 12: 8-10, Rom. 12:6-8 and I Peter 4:11. In this section of scripture, Paul is focused on the gifting given to Christian Leaders

Apostles

2 main qualifications: Personally, saw Jesus (I Cor. 9:1) and was an eye- witness of the resurrection (Acts 1:21-22)

Evangelists: those with the special anointing to be messengers of the gospel

Pastors-Teachers: those given shepherding responsibilities among God’s people

God has gifted each of these leaders for a purpose:

1. To Equip the Saints (ordinary believers) for works of service
To Equip: carries the idea of mending nets

** Please note the work of the ministry is to be accomplished by the people, not just the leaders!! The leaders are the trainers.

2. So that the body can be built up (grown up in their faith)

The goal is to “reach unity” (in faith and knowledge)-So we work well together
“Become mature” (the standard is the life of Christ)
Stable-reliable
Truthful-let our “yeas be yeas” and our word our bond.

3. So that body builds itself up in LOVE as each part does their work in the ministry

So What ?

Vs. 16 His Summary

“From Him, the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

“From Him”: our source for energy, strength and opportunity

“The whole body”-not the select few

“Held together”- with others

“Built up in love-“our motivation

“Each part does its work”-your job is not my job!

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