

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: Gifted Program for Unity

Passage: Ephesians 4:7-16

Illustration:

Need: God's program for Unity in the body involves individual believers exercising the spiritual gifts given to them by Christ for the building of one another.

I. Because of who we are in Christ, we are called to pursue unity. (4:1-6 Review)

- By exercising mutual humility, gentleness, patience, and tolerance.
- Rallied around one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God.

II. Jesus gives all believers divine spiritual gifts to benefit and build up the body. (4:7-10)

- NT Spiritual Gifts passages: Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11
- Every believer has at least one spiritual gift.
- Spiritual gifts are given at conversion and are used to fulfill God's calling for us.
- Gifts vary and fill different roles. Some more visible than others but all equally important.
- All gifts are sourced in God's power.
- Spiritual gifts are not for the individuals own edification or promotion but for the benefit of others.
- Spiritual gifts are all meant to bring glory to God.

III. As all believers faithfully use their spiritual gifts, the body grows and matures in unity. (4:11-16)

- Some spiritual gifts are designed for equipping
- All spiritual gifts are designed for building unity, maturity, and stability.
- Unity on theological essentials but grace on debatable, secondary issues.
- Childishness is abandoned and maturity is formed as one grows up.
- Maturity brings stability in the face of various teachings, popular teachers, and outright deception that would toss us about.
- Mature believers know they must speak truth but do so in love.
- Mature believers receive truth with love and are not easily offended.
- Mature believers submit to their Lord and allow Him to be their mutual Head and decision maker for the whole.
- Maturing believers, properly functioning together, grow together in love.

IV. If we're going to be a healthy & growing, we need your gifts!

- Some believers had no idea that Jesus has given them a divine enablement for building others.
- Some believers know about spiritual gifts but have never discovered what they are.
- Some believers took a test or a class and can tell you what they think their spiritual gifts are but have never used them in service.
- Some believers got discouraged somewhere along the way because they bought the lie that they don't matter or they don't matter any more.
- Some believers have discovered their spiritual gift and are exercising it faithfully in service. You know who they are. They are such an encouragement to you time and again.
- We need everyone to exercise his/her gifts so that we might be built to greater levels of unity and maturity.