



IN EPHESIANS

CHRIST

Lesson #35

Grace & GIFTS

(PART 3)

(Ephesians 4:7-16)

God's Theme for Chapter 4

- The Church - the Body of Christ. God sees His Church as ONE!
- Unity and Diversity
- Growing and Edifying Itself
- Many today have no idea what Church is. They sincerely believe that going to church on so“s”“me Sundays is what God calls Church.
- According to God's Word every Christian is called to be an active, serving member of a local Body of Christ.
- Chapter 4 speaks of ONE BODY made up of MANY MEMBERS. To ignore this chapter and follow the teachings of men about church is to redefine the Body of Christ with Christ as her Head.
- NO CHRISTIAN can say that it is not necessary for me to be an active serving member of a local Church, Body of Christ. (1 Cor 12:12-27)

We Live in a Very Dangerous Time of Christendom

- MANY are doing “church” their own way; they say what “church” is and is not.
- MANY are ignoring the Word of God.
- MANY are following traditions and teachings of men rather than the commandments of God. (Matthew 15:1-9)

Are We Walking Worthy of Our Calling? (Ephesians 4:1-2)

Are We Endeavoring to Keep the Unity of the Spirit? (vv. 3-6)

- One can only obey this exhortation by being a member of a local Body of Christ.

ALL Christians Are Given Grace & Gifts (Ephesians 4:7-11)

- Each Christian is “graced” to fulfill his/her place within a Body.
- There are NO exceptions.
- God gives gifts as He pleases and wills““. In God's plan, purpose, will He has a place (part) for each and every Christian. (1 Cor 12:11, 18; Ephesians 4:11)
- No Christian has any say is what his/her gift is.
- We are to be “good stewards” of the grace given us. (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- Having a defective view of Church is very dangerous!
- There is a very defective view of Church in the culture and time we live.

The Purpose of Giving Gifts (Ephesians 4:12-16)

- (v. 12) Equipping of the saints for the work of ministering.
- (v. 12) Edifying (building up) the Body of Christ - the Church.
- (v. 13) Growing into the unity of the faith.
- (v. 13) Growing in the knowledge of the Son of God.
- (vv. 13, 15, 16) Growing into a “perfect man”, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”
- (v. 14) So that, she is not tossed to and from carried about by every wind of doctrine by deceit.
- ★ This is NOT about INDIVIDUALS. It IS about a BODY of individuals.

“For the Equipping of the Saints” (Ephesians 4:12)

- “saints” – “holy ones”; “sanctified ones”; “set apart ones”; “separated ones”
- ALL Christians, those who have been born-again are SAINTS.
- ONLY saints are allowed into heaven.
- One must become a saint before he/she dies.
- By definition a saint:
 - ★ Is holy in all of his/her conduct. (1 Peter 1:13-16)
 - ★ Purifies themselves just as Christ is pure. (1 John 3:3; 2 Cor 7:1)
 - ★ Understands that he/she was chosen by God, set apart from the world, set apart unto God, for the purpose of fulfilling His purpose.
 - ★ A “holy one” belongs solely unto the Lord to be used by Him for holy purposes.

★ Saints are “peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9) which means:

- ① They belong exclusively to one Person.
- ② They are DISTINCT; DIFFERENT from the usual.
 - ☆ Separated from the world.

- “equipping” – literally means “perfecting” – the background of the word fits perfectly in the context – “fitting together into one body”.
 - ★ This word was used medically for the “setting of bones which had become dislocated.” So, the idea here is the “perfectly fitting together of the different members on the one body so that the body can perform its function/purpose in the world.

“For the Work of Service” (Ephesians 4:12)

- We are saved unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10)
 - God saved us because we fit into His plan and purpose.
 - We are to always be abounding in the work of God. (1 Corinthians 15:28)
 - Faith without works is a DEAD FAITH - a faith that cannot and will not save. (James 2:14-26)
 - God equips us to do His work by giving each of us grace.
- We are saved to be “slaves” to Christ and each other. (Matt 20:26-28; Philippians 2:5-8)

“For the Edifying of the Body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12)

- The GOAL is the building up of the WHOLE BODY!
- The GOAL is SPIRITUAL GROWTH of the WHOLE BODY.
- The WHOLE BODY must GROW UP TOGETHER.

The Standard (Ephesians 4:13)

- ① Unity of the faith of the Son of God.
 - ★ This includes growing in all doctrines. (1 Timothy 4:13-16; 5:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - ★ The goal is for the Church to “speak the same thing, that there be no divisions, and that she be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same understand/judgment.” (1 Cor 1:10)

② The **knowledge** of the Son of God.

- ★ The Holy Spirit uses the Greek word ἐπίγνωσις (epignosis) – this is more than just “head” knowledge. This is INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE or RELATIONAL KNOWLEDGE. This knowledge is the foundation of an INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP with Christ.
 - ★ This was the kind of knowledge that Paul desired in Philippians 3:8, 10.
 - ★ This is the knowledge that we desire when we sing the song “Knowing You”.
 - ★ This knowledge comes only by diligent study of God’s Word and applying that knowledge in our daily lives.
- ③ A **PERFECT MAN** - this is NOT an individual man but THE CHURCH.
- ★ A fully grown mature man – Christ as our example.
- ④ The measure of the stature of the FULLNESS of Christ.
- ★ This is accomplished as one, in love, obeys. To those God and Christ come to make their homes with them and to manifest themselves. (See John 14:21, 23; and Ephesians 3:17)
 - ★ We are walk as He walked! (1 John 2:6)

How Do We LIVE This Word

- ★ We are commanded to grow. (2 Peter 3:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)
 - ① Crave the pure milk of Scripture. (1 Peter 2:2-3)
 - ② Take in the solid meat of Scripture. (Hebrews 5:12-14)
 - ③ Keep ourselves clean. (1 John 3:3; 2 Cor 7:1; 2 Peter 3:14; Hebrews 12:14)
 - ④ Live circumspectly. (Ephesians 5:15-17; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 6:18)
 - ⑤ Be disciplined. Doing God’s will. (1 Corinthians 9:26-27; Matt 7:21; 1 John 2:17)
 - ⑥ Exercise - DO. (1 Timothy 4:7-8; James 1:22; Matthew 7:21-25; 12:50; 28:20; Luke 6:46-48; 11:28; Philippians 4:8; 1 John 2:3-4)
 - ⑦ Work toward the goal. (2 Corinthians 5:9; John 6:27)
 - THE GOAL: Ephesians 4:12-13.
- ★ A body by definition does everything together. A Body of Christ, a Church, can never achieve this unity unless it “drinks, eats, cleans, lives, disciplines exercises and works” TOGETHER