

My goal: that everyone will be serving in some sort of capacity this year.
 Ephesians is all about God's grand purpose in redemptive history. Application follows doctrine. The exhortations of Scripture = empty moralism w/o foundation.

1. Ch. 1 – The Divine purpose: the glory & headship of Christ
2. Ch. 2-3 – How God has brought His purpose about Theologically
3. Ch. 4-6 – How God is bringing His purpose about Practically
 - a. 4:1-6 – Unity in the body
 - b. 4:7-16 – Diversity in the body
 - c. 4:17-5:20 – Maturity in the body

Diversity in Unity that leads to Maturity

- Paul moves from stress on unity (4-6) to diversity (7-10), and back again to unity (11-16), forming an inclusio.
 - At 1st sight it might seem that this diversity is at odds w/ the overarching unity of 1-6. But the diversity contributes to the unity of the body, since Christ's giving different gifts to each is for the purpose of enriching the whole, so that all are prepared for full maturity when they meet their Lord (v.13).
- a. The Destination of Grace (4:7a) – “to each one of us”
 - Emphatic: no one “in Christ” (i.e. in His ‘body’) is left out/excluded
 - There is no excuse for Christian inactivity in the church!
 2. The Diversity of Grace (4b) – “According to the measure”
 - Illustration of a recipe: differing amounts of ingredients bring about the baker's intention. Imagine if all were equal. God has differing ‘measuring cups’ in His church recipe; each ingredient has its own unique function w/in
 - Better illustration: War general assigning various tasks in war strategy.
 3. The Dispenser of Grace (4:7c-10) – “of the gift of Christ”
 - a. Christ, as Head, rules the body, & gives as He pleases (4:7c)
 - b. Christ, as conquering King, is able to give as He pleases (4:8-10)
 - Psa. 68 – speaks of YHWH's triumphant ascension to His throne in the temple at Jerusalem (Zion). Paul sees this as referring to Christ's resurrection to the right hand, where He rules as head over His people. Using war language, the Victor, after receiving gifts from men, would distribute the plunder amongst His troops & people.
 - The captives over whom Christ triumphed are most likely demons (cf. 1:19-22; Col. 2:15).
 4. The Display of Grace (4:11) – “And He gave some...”
 - The ‘gifts’ given by Christ turn out to be those whom He appoints as leaders over His church.
 - Notice their primary focus: **ministering of the Word!**
 5. The Design of Grace (4:12-14) – “So that...”

- a. Positively (4:12-13)
 - “– a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature”
- b. Negatively (4:14)
- c. Ultimately (4:15-16)

Conclusion: Necessity of prayer (3:14-21; 1:15-23) to accomplish this.