

# Body in Action

Ephesians 4:11-16

God gave the church staff "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" to attain unity.

## The Body Divided

Why is there so much division/disunity in the body of Christ?

Why is it that while we are contending for the faith, we become contentious with the faithful?

1. Flesh
  - We defend unity at the expense of biblical truth.
  - We emphasize specific issues at the expense of balance.
2. Pride (Prov. 13:10)
  - If contention exists in the church, someone became proud.
3. Fear
  - We are afraid of being identified with people who might do things differently than we do.

## The Body United

1. Grow \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 15)
  - There is only one body of Christ, made up of "local expressions."
2. Grow \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 16)

- Every true believer is a *member* of the body.
- Without accountability, the Christian life is optional.
- God knows how to make a body. (1 Cor. 12:12-31)
  - "But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose" (v. 18).
  - Rather than complain about being or not being in certain positions, accept that God places you as it pleases Him.
- 3. Grow \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 16b)
  - Most churches try to grow out before they grow up and grow together.

## How Do We Build the Body?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ graciously. (Eph. 4:29)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ lovingly. (Gal. 5:13)
  - "Love for God has no substance apart from love for neighbor." (Unknown)
  - "Love comes when self dies." (Spurgeon)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ regularly. (Heb. 10:25-26)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ wisely. (Col. 3:16)
  - G \_\_\_\_\_
  - L \_\_\_\_\_
  - H \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ willingly. (Gal. 6:1-2)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ daily. (Heb. 3:13)