

EPHESIANS - Ephesians 4:14b-15
Message 66
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INTRO: We are in Ephesians 4, the beginning of the practical section of the book. In 4:1-6 we have what I titled the call to unity, and in 4:7-16 we have the provision for unity. In 4:7-10 we have the means of this unity and in 11-16 we have the method of this unity. To achieve this unity God gave gifted people to the Church. Verse 11 says:

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Today much is made of what is called the fivefold ministry, which says that the Church always needs all five of these ministries, so we have apostles and prophets placed over the evangelists and pastors and teachers. I've read it put like this. We are to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. On this hand of God, the apostle is the thumb. The prophet is the forefinger, the evangelist the middle finger, the pastor the ring finger, and the teacher the little finger.

However, I believe the ministry of Apostles and prophets, as viewed in this verse, speaks of those that make up the foundation of the church. That means we do not have these ministries today. The foundation that is so crucial to the whole Church is the Word of God and that is what they gave to us. The Scriptures are complete. Prophecy in the sense of that of which the NT is made up of did not continue after the writings of the NT were complete.

I further believe that evangelists in the sense of those who bring the Gospel out to other lands or unreached people has always been a gift in the Church and it still is today, as is that of pastors and teachers.

So let me bring us to where we are in these messages by reading Ephesians 4:11-14:

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

In the last message we looked at the first part of verse 14 and we now will move on from there.

4) The purpose 4:14-16

a) Positively (14b-15) cont'd

We go on then in verse 14b. The purpose of edifying believers is given to us positively and negatively. Positively it is to bring the believer to maturity for this cause:

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

We have looked at the first part of the verse, that believers should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried by every wind of doctrine. Believers begin as babies and if they only grow to childhood, they will be tossed to and fro like waves by the wind. And the area in which they are tossed to and fro is doctrine. And so the believer is to be edified until he becomes stable and is not susceptible to every teaching that comes around. All this we have looked at.

We go on now to learn that every wind of doctrine comes first, by the trickery of men. The KJV translates this word 'trickery' as 'sleight'. You will be familiar with the saying, 'sleight of hand'. That is

what is in view here. The word has to do with dice, and trickery by dice. Today you can go to youtube and type in 'sleight of hand' and if you did not know that it was sleight of hand you would vow it is real. This is how winds of doctrine come in. If you do not know the truth, one can easily be swayed by words that are as deceptive to the ears as sleight of hand is to the eyes.

So you parents, you might find some clean 'sleight of hand' video and show your children. And then ask them if they think this is really happening. And if they say no, then ask them to explain. And they will understand what is here meant by trickery.

Now there is something very important for us to realize. It is this. Behind all of this is one mind. This mind is none other than Satan himself. And he has deceived those who bring in these damnable heresies. And here is what we must also see. Many of those who bring in these false doctrines are not purposely trying to mislead you. They are fully convinced themselves that they have the truth. They themselves are deceived by a master mind behind their mind.

It is possible that someone like Benny Hinn, who is in ministry for the money, may realize what he is doing is not the real thing. But whether he knows it or not, still behind what he is doing is Satan. He is fully eating out of Satan's hand for what he can get out of it. I understand his net worth is 42 million dollars.

No matter why anyone abuses the Gospel, whether it be for self, for money, for recognition, whatever it may be, behind it is Satan and he has

one strategy and that is to destroy the Church and godliness and God's people.

Let me read verse 14 once more for the last part of the verse:

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Being carried about by every wind of doctrine is to be carried about by the sleight of hand of sinful men, no matter how great their religious front may be. It is by the trickery of men.

And now last, it is in cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting. The idea of this word is to be skillful or clever. This skill or cleverness can be used for good or for evil. When it is used for evil it is cunning, craftiness. When it is used in winds of doctrine it is to be able to use words with cunning craftiness. It is the kind of thing children, or the spiritually immature, would not be able to recognize. Someone spiritually untaught would never pick up the error of these teachers.

So believers are to be matured beyond childhood. Once one learns the truth of certain things one is appalled at how gullible Christians are. Let me give you an example. Today professing Christians are reading books like *The Shack*, and many are encouraged by it. The theology in that book is so atrocious, one would think a spiritual child would understand the demonic influences behind it. But that is not so.

Today there are now many other such books, like *Jesus' Calling* and more, so that one would think any believer would know something is wrong.

But that is not the case. It is to be so undiscerning that one wonders if they are truly born again believers.

Turn to 2 Corinthians 11. Corinth was troubled by those who claimed to be Apostles. And Paul was concerned that they would be misled by these imposters. So he says in verse 3:

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, (this is our word) so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The same means Satan used to deceive Eve is what these men use who bring about all these various distorted Gospels. Now let me say a word about demonism. In our so called civilized nations we have failed to recognize that the devil has put on new clothes to adapt to what we do not recognize. We think that demonism is in countries like Africa and India, and do not recognize demons when dressed in a suit and tie.

You will meet very nice worldly people. I mean very nice. No, they do not believe in Christ, but they are very nice. But talk to them about the Bible and faith, and you will find them far, far away. And sometimes they will do everything to avoid talking about spiritual things, and we fail to recognize demons. Who blinds the minds of unbelievers according to this verse? The same one who blinded Eve's mind. But we don't recognize what is going on.

No church is without this influence somewhere. But we do not recognize it. As a matter of fact, the preacher in the pulpit who preaches Jesus may be unsaved, and think he is doing the work of God. So Paul says in the very next verse:

4 *For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted – you may well put up with it!*

These men were preaching a different Jesus. No doubt it all sounded wonderful, but it was a different Jesus and brought about a different spirit.

Turn to Luke 19. The chief priests, those on the top of the ladder among the priests and the scribes, those learned in Scripture, tried to trap Jesus using this same Satanic cunning. So look at verse 20:

20 *So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.*

21 *Then they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You say and teach rightly, and You do not show personal favoritism, but teach the way of God in truth:*

A little flattery might help their cause. Always watch flattery. They said, "We know you are a good man. You teach the truth. You don't show favoritism. You do what is right. You teach God's way in truth. Um, we have a question for you, great teacher of truth. Our question is this:"

22 *"Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"*

23 *But He perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "Why do you test Me?"*

The Lord saw clear through their flattery and told them so. Now the word translated 'craftiness' is our word, the method those who teach wrong doctrine use. He said, "Why do you test Me. Why are you trying Me?" Well, they

don't need to answer. He knows. So He turns the table on them, verse 24:

24 *"Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?" They answered and said, "Caesar's."*

25 *And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

26 *But they could not catch Him in His words in the presence of the people. And they marveled at His answer and kept silent.*

Jesus saw through their craftiness and thus avoided their traps. Here is the key. Know the word of God. Know the true doctrine. Know the Lord Jesus.

Then in 2 Corinthians 4 Paul shows how the true teacher and preacher operates. Verses 1-2 say:

1 *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.*

2 *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness <there is our word again>, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

In those passage we get a good idea of how these false teachers work. But the true preacher has denounced the hidden things of dishonesty. He does not walk in craftiness. He does not handle the Word of God deceitfully.

I watched two men testify in this infamous Mueller probe in the US government. Every effort had been made to make them confess to something that was not true. Both refused to give in even if it would cost them a jail

term. One was jailed for a while, but now both have been vindicated.

The one man said that his turning point came when he spoke to his wife. She said she would sooner have a husband who was not guilty, in jail for something he did not do, than to have him give in to lying.

That reminded me of a stressful time when Richard Wurmbrandt's wife told him he had to say something in some big meeting because what was happening was wrong. He realized what saying something might cost him and reminder her. And she said she would sooner have him go to jail than to have a coward for a husband. Well, he paid dearly for his decision.

And last, Paul says those teaching false doctrines come with *deceitful plotting*. The word translated 'deceitful' is *planee*. We get our word 'planet' from this word. You see, there is a difference between the planets and the stars. Stars are stationary, but planets move about. They wander. That is the idea here, wandering; moving about, unstable.

But when it says *deceitful*, or *wandering plotting*, the word for plotting is *methodias*, from which we get our word *methods*. False teachers don't have one method you have to learn, they have multiple methods that move about. Once they are here, and the next time there. As someone has said of defining the emergent church, it is like trying to nail jello to the wall. You can never be ahead of these deceitful plotters. . There is but one key. Learn the truth!

Turn to Ephesians 6 for one more look at this word *methodias*. We begin in verse 11. It says:

11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Here we see the source of the real battle we face. And in verse 11 it speaks of the 'wiles' of the devil. This word is the word of our text, *methodias*. It is the methods of the devil. Behind all misleading, shifty, false teaching is one mastermind and that is Satan.

b) Positively (15-16)

So the purpose of edification is first, negatively in verse 14 like this:

14 *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

Paul then goes on to show the purpose of edification positively. It is:

15 *but, that we, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ -*

16 *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

In the conjunction 'but' in verse 15 we have a contrast to what has gone on before. We only have time to look at verse 15 yet, in this message. What went on before was

children being tossed about by every wind of doctrine, and now we have a strong contrast to that and that is that we, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, the Christ.

It may interest you to know that the word 'speaking' is not in the original text. It is hard to translate the original word. If we translated literally we would have to tweak our English like this, "But truthing in love..." It has more in view than speaking. It has life in view, living in truth whether it is speaking or anything else.

This word only occurs twice in the NT. Turn to Galatians 4 to look at the other occurrence. We go to verse 16. Paul says to the Galatians:

16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

Again, the word 'tell' is not there, but in English we have to try to convey the thought. You see, you can become someone's enemy, not only because you tell them the truth, but also because you live the truth. John 3:21 says, "He that does the truth comes to the light." When you live right you do the truth. He that does truth speaks truth, lives truth and walks in truth and as some translate this text, he holds the truth in love.

Let me give you an example. You are sitting with a rather loose group, say at lunch at work, or any other place for that matter. And off color jokes are cracked, but you cannot join in the laughter. You are *truthing* in love. You hold the truth in love.

Or you are in such a situation, and someone offers everyone an alcoholic drink and you refrain. That can be most offensive, especially if

you are with professing Christians. But you are holding the truth in love. You are doing truth.

Now here is how to look at our text, 'speaking' or 'holding the truth in love.' Pastors are to finish or complete the believer with this purpose in mind, first negatively, that the believer would not be blown around by every wind of doctrine; and second, positively that the believer, holding the truth in love may grow up in all things in Christ.

How important then is this positive statement! How do you grow up in all things in Christ? By holding the truth in love. It is not possible to grow up and become strong spiritually, without holding the truth in love. What is the standard by which all things are to be measured by the Christian? Truth! How do you know if you are on the right path in anything? Truth!

Now just what is spiritual truth? Well, what is truth? Today someone else's truth may be different from my truth. Today, a man may claim to be a woman, and it is 'his truth'; but not only is it his truth, it must now become 'my truth' too. If I don't address him with a feminine pronoun, now I may be in trouble with the law of our country! This is a satanic view of truth! I wrote those words last week, this morning I read that the supreme court in BC just required of a father of a 14 year old girl to treat her as a boy.

Well, truth is that which conforms to reality. And when a man says he is a woman, every fact of reality is missing. This man's truth is a lie. Now truth is propositional. For example, this pulpit is not the truth. But if I say, 'This is a pulpit' that

proposition is true. When a man says he is a woman, that proposition is a lie. It does not conform to reality. He is living in a delusion.

Now what is spiritual truth? Spiritual truth is truth about life after death, salvation of the soul, the fact of sin, how to be saved etc... The Bible contains a lot of truth that is not spiritual but the main intent is for our spiritual lives.

And now, in order not to be blown about by every wind of doctrine we must hold the truth in love. We can only grow spiritually by holding the truth in love.

Now we are talking about spiritual truth. And spiritual truth is found in the Bible! Let me remind us that because most Christians believe a certain thing does not make it true. Generally the crowd is going in the wrong direction. Spiritual truth is determined by the Bible.

2 Peter 1:2-3 says:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

Through a knowledge of the truth of the Word of God the Lord has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. We are talking about spiritual truth, of course. All spiritual truth needed for life and godliness comes to us in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ and this is found in the Bible!

So we must learn the truth. That is knowledge. And then we must hold the truth. That is the practical

outworking of spiritual truth! Listen to 1 Timothy 3:14-15:

14 *These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;*

15 *but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Lloyd Jones who died in 1981 said that in his day already, there was a great dislike for creeds and confessions and precise definition. Ecumenism was in full bloom in his day. Doctrine was out. Clear statements of faith were out.

I do not know if I see it right, but this is how it looks to me. In the 1900's every effort was made to destroy the Word of God, whether in printing different versions of the Scriptures or denying various doctrines, or getting rid of preaching doctrine and so on.

Then a shift came. Instead of seeking to destroy those things or maybe through greatly weakening doctrinal teaching and holding to solid statements of faith or constitutions, a new effort began. And that is to change man's view of how to live, not by seeking to change doctrinal statements and confessions of faith, but by changing the practice of believers.

Dress codes were dropped. Come as you are, long hair for men, short hair for women, paint and jewelry; tattered jeans in church, choruses instead of hymns, a preacher in jeans or short pants and T shirt, rock music; every area of standards of practice came under attack, even though

the preaching may still be reasonably sound.

I sat in a seminar and a Bible School teacher from Carenport Bible school was teaching. That is about 30 years ago. And the subject was Sunday School curriculum. The question was, how do you determine what to teach? And here is the answer. Find out what the people want and are interested in and then teach on a subject that interests them. The mixture of truth with error is frightening when you understand what is happening.

And then, teachings such as unconditional love began to trump everything. And what happened out of all this? We got the seeker friendly church which morphed into the emerging church. And if I understand it right, the emerging church is simply the church that adapts to the culture. That is not necessarily all wrong either, but when the culture is ungodly, the culture must be converted to the truth. And that is what those who hold the truth in love do. They conform their lives to truth.

When we adapt the church to the culture we are not 'truthing in love', or holding the truth in love. If we held the truth in love, we would maintain godly practices. When contemplative prayer, yoga and rock music, never mind being inappropriately dressed and other such things are the way to get people in, we are not 'truthing' or holding the truth in love.

If I understand this text right, pastors are to bring sheep to maturity through the preaching of the truth. This is so that the sheep will not be blown around by every wind of doctrine. And when they are fed the truth, they are now to hold the truth

in love. And when they hold the truth in love they will grow up in spiritual maturity. No maturing apart from spiritual truth!

Lloyd Jones bemoaned how people in his day were preaching tolerance rather than holding onto doctrine and promoting it. That was over 60 years ago! They downplayed the importance of doctrine and exalted unity at the expense of doctrine. He spoke of the early Church and said:

"Unlike the modern ecumenical idea, they did not come together to say that they were all one and that differing views were of little consequence; they came together in order to state clearly what must be believed, and to state that those who refused to subscribe to such truth must be denounced as heretics and excommunicated. They felt that the whole life of the Church and the whole future of the Church was at stake and that there must be an end to the uncertainty and the confusion concerning vital doctrines. So they drew up creeds in which they defined what must be believed, and they drew a sharp distinction between right and wrong, and truth and error. History records the heresies and the errors that came in about the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Arian heresy and others, but Athanasius and eventually others, stood against it, and condemned it. But all that is dismissed with a wave of the hand today. It is, I repeat, not only a denial of the preaching of the Scripture but also a denial of the most glorious periods in the history of the Christian Church. You cannot 'hold on' to the truth unless you know that the truth is. There are certain doctrines which are

absolutely essential to the Christian faith" 247).

Now let me make one more point. Our text says speaking or holding the truth, and here is how; in love. I do not need to tell you what word for love is used here do I? You can tell me. What is it? Agapee love! In all of life conduct the believer is to hold the truth in love.

Turn to Romans 1. In this chapter Paul deals with the sinfulness of the Gentiles. And look at what he says in verse 18:

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

The NKJV says these people suppress the truth in unrighteousness. The KJV says they hold the truth in unrighteousness. I think that is closer. Literally it says they 'have the truth in unrighteousness'. You can hold the truth in unrighteousness and it will cause a downward spiral in morals. The following verses describe what happens then, but look at verse 25:

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

To hold the truth in love is to hold it by doing right! Now how does love behave? 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter tells us. Let me read verses 4-6 for you:

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

There we have a clear word on how to hold the truth in love. And we notice last that agapee love rejoices in the truth! It is easy to rejoice in some truth! But it is not easy to rejoice in all truth. Let us say someone faces me up with a lie I have told. Would someone who holds the truth in love do that? Yes. If the other person truly rejoices in truth, rejoices in being exposed and correcting wrongs, then it should not cause an issue.

Let me give one more insight from Jones. He says, "But we must be equally careful to 'hold the truth in love'. Once more I emphasize that this addition, like the entire statement, must be interpreted in light of verse 14. In interpreting that verse I laid great stress upon the strength and almost the violence of language used by the Apostle. Yet here he is exhorting us to 'speak the truth in love'. Is there a contradiction between the strong language of verse 14 and 'speaking the truth in love' in verse 15? Obviously there is no such thing, but it helps us to interpret the phrase about love. Clearly, in the light of verse 14 it cannot only mean being nice and kind. The Apostle Paul was not a 'nice' man in the commonly accepted sense. A man who filled with the love of Christ is not merely 'a nice man' in a natural sense, which is mainly due to one's physical constitution and entirely accidental. That is not the love of which Paul is speaking" (250).

Now notice as we go a little further in our verse:

*15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things
into Him who is the head—Christ—*

The believer who is being edified, rather than being blown about by every wind of doctrine is now to live the truth in love. And here we have come to a subjunctive mood verb. It is that he or she '**may** grow up in all things into Him...' I do not understand this to mean that if you hold the truth in love, you might grow up in all things into Him. I understand this to mean that even if one is edified by sound preaching, if he does not live the truth he cannot grow up in all things into Christ. In other words one may hear and not do. Then there will be no growth. But one may hear and do the truth, and only in this way will one grow up in all things into Christ.

Now notice that the Lord's desire is that believers grow up in all things! Our Christianity should affect every area of life. It should change anything that is not in order. Dress. Music. Business. Marriage. Children. Parents. House. Vehicles. Hobbies. Travel. You name it, holding the truth in love will affect every area of life.

We go back to our verse once more:

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

I have recommended that the only way we can grow up in Christ is that when we are edified, which is to come to understand new truths from the Word of God, we must hold the truth in love. Living the truth is absolutely essential to growing up in Christ.

But note now that we are to grow up in Him! We saw earlier that the pastor is to finish the sheep. He is to bring them to maturity. And I recommended that this maturity is

Christ-likeness. That is what growing up *in Him* is.

To be a Christian means to be a little Christ. He is a Christ one, a Christian. How can I listen to that music? I am a Christian. How can I dress like that? I am a Christian. How can I do business like that? I am a Christian. Let me quote from a message I did many years ago at a baptism:

Richard Wurmbrand, a Romanian pastor, and the founder of the Voice of the Martyr's knew about persecution. He spent some 13 years in Romanian prisons and experienced tremendous torture. Afterwards, when he would preach he often had a hard time standing because his feet had been burned so badly. In one term, the torture came close to breaking him down. They gave him drugs, and tried to brainwash him in order to break his will. Sometimes, at all hours of the day they would have loudspeakers blaring, "Christianity is stupid, Christianity is stupid. Christianity is stupid. Why not give it up? Why not give it up." This would go on and on until those words were burned in the mind and would repeat themselves over and over in his mind.

Then one day Romania's Deputy-Minister came personally to talk with Wurmbrandt. When he came, Wurmbrandt wondered if he would finally be killed. But he was not to be killed. Rather, he was told he could be a great help to the country if he would become the bishop of a large group of churches and he would be free to do as he wished. The minister had all people removed from the room and then he personally pleaded with Wurmbrandt. He told him they had been wrong in how they had dealt with him. And right here

Wurmbrandt met his hardest trial of all. He had not seen his wife and child for a long time. And if he refused, what would happen to them now? And he began to waver. Wurmbrandt was being enticed to compromise, and in this enticement was the serpent's hiss and Wurmbrandt in his weakened state could not hear the hiss.

When the deputy minister left, he gave Wurmbrandt time to think things over. So when he was back in his cell, he tried to think of the Lord but thoughts of freedom and other things brought such hope, that for a time it distracted him from the Lord. He could be the Lutheran Bishop of Romania. Then he thought of how his visiting card would read, "Richard Wurmbrandt, Lutheran Bishop of Romania, by appointment of the secret police." He knew he would not be a bishop of Christ. He would be a spy.

Then he was called in again and he told them he could not accept. Then the deputy minister, Negrea asked everyone to leave the room, as he had on his first visit. And when he had Wurmbrandt alone, he urged him to reconsider. Then Wurmbrandt said, "I don't feel worthy to be a bishop - I wasn't worthy to be a pastor, and even to be a simple Christian was too great for me. The first Christians went to their deaths saying, 'Christanus sumi' - I'm a Christian!' - and I haven't done that; instead I considered your shameful offer. But I cannot accept it." The minister then said, "You know, of course, what this will mean for your future?" And Wurmbrandt said, "I have considered well, and weighed the dangers, and I rejoice to suffer for what I am sure is the last truth."

May I ask you, is that where you stand? Well, let us go back to our verse once more:

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

As we are edified as believers, learning new spiritual truths, we are to grow up into Him, who is the head, and that head is Christ. Once again we have the picture of the body. A head requires a body if it is to be of any value, and a body must have a head if it is to be of any value. And in the head you have the most important part. This is the parliament building of the whole being. From here, instructions flow to the rest of the body. But when you have a body and it won't function according to the signals sent from the head, you have a problem.

Consider the Church now as the body of Christ and Christ as the head. What is it like for Christ to operate His body in the world, if the body is not trained and exercised and taught what and how to do what it is supposed to do. And how does Christ train His body, the Church? He sent Apostles and prophets and evangelists and pastors and teachers. And pastors and teachers are to finish the body parts so that they know how to function.

CONCL: So we conclude. Our verses were verses 14-15 which say this:

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Christians should grow up! Christians who do not grow up are tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine. Men, professing Christians, use trickery and cunning craftiness and deceitful plotting and only a "grown up Christian" will discern what is happening.

Now let me stress once more that I think most professing Christians who use trickery and cunning craftiness and deceitful plotting are not aware of what they are doing. They themselves have been deceived by the devil and think they are working for God. Behind their thinking is a mind far bigger. It is the mind of Satan himself who has influenced these men through demons who are everywhere.

And to mature Christians so that they will be able to discern the ways of the devil, God sent pastors and teachers to edify them.