

- For the purpose of preparing all the saints
- With the goal of preparing them for the work of service
- With the final goal that the body of Christ would be built up through the service of all the saints
- The goal of the body being built up (13)
 - Attaining doctrinal and experiential unity as a body
 - Unity in the truths of the faith
 - Unity in experiential knowledge of Jesus
 - Attaining mature manhood as a body
 - Attaining Christ-likeness as a body
- The evidence that the body is being built up (14-15)
 - Not being characterized by the doctrinal instability of immaturity (14)
 - Not tossed and carried about by false doctrine
 - Not tossed and carried about by the trickery of false teachers
 - Not tossed and carried about by deceitful doctrinal scheming
 - But rather being characterized by growing in maturity as the body speaks the truth in love (15-16)
 - A maturity defined as growing up into Christ (15)
 - A comprehensive growth
 - A Christ-centered growth
 - A maturity by means of God's Word communicated in a loving manner (15)
 - A maturity sourced in Christ (16)
 - A maturity through the agency of the body (16)
 - As equipping gifts supply connections within the body
 - So that all the individual members of the body properly function
 - For the building up of the body in love

Church Growth Christ's Way: Principles from Ephesians

4:1-16

(Pastor John Brackbill/Ephesians 4:1-16/6.13.15)

Bible Study Hour

1. *Church growth Christ's way is impossible without a committed and accountable relationship to a local expression of Christ's body the church*
 - Walking in a manner worthy of our calling necessarily has to be played out within a _____ (1-3)
 - Church growth according to this passage is growth within a body that is composed of various _____ members of that body (15)
2. *Church growth Christ's way is rooted in and involves doctrinal purity and clarity:*
 - _____ (1)
 - Attaining the unity of _____ (13)
 - Not carried about by every wind of _____ (14)
3. *Church growth Christ's way is an urgent matter: _____ (1)*
4. *Church growth Christ's way is wrapped up with Christ's call: Walk in manner worthy of _____ (1)*
5. *Church growth Christ's way is focused on Spirit produced realities, not external facades (2)*
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
6. *Church growth Christ's way requires Spirit dependent effort (3)*
 - _____ one another in love
 - _____ the unity of the Spirit
7. *Church growth Christ's way is God-centered: _____ (4), _____ (5) and _____ (6)*
8. *Church growth Christ's way is possible through Christ's victory gifts to all His people: _____ grace was given (7-10)*
9. *Church growth Christ's way is ultimately focused on the display of Christ's Lordship over all: _____ (10)*
10. *Church growth Christ's way is coordinated by equipping gifts*
 - Christ gave certain _____ for the equipping (11-12a)
 - They function as _____ within the body (16)
 - The primary equipping gift that functions within the life of the church are _____ (11)

11. Church growth Christ's way requires the whole body properly functioning:
 - All the saints doing _____ (12)
 - The whole body..._____ for the building up of itself (16)
12. Church growth Christ's way requires each individual properly functioning: according to the _____ (16)
13. Church growth Christ's way is a unified whole body growth:
 - Building up of _____ (12)
 - Mature _____ (13)
 - _____ are to grow up (15)
 - _____ (16)
14. Church growth Christ's way involves experiential growth: attaining to the unity of the _____ (13)
15. Church growth Christ's way is all about Christ-likeness:
 - attaining to the standard of the _____ (13)
 - growing up _____ (15)
16. Church growth Christ's way is carried out by means of the communication of God's truth within the body:
 - Each equipping gift functions by _____ (11)
 - Attaining the _____ which requires the communication of God's Word (13)
 - Not being deceived by _____, which requires the communication of God's Word (14)
 - The whole body Speaking _____ in love (15)
17. Church growth Christ's way occurs within the atmosphere of biblical love:
 - Tolerating one another _____ (3)
 - Speaking the truth _____ (15)
 - The building up of the body _____ (16)
18. Church growth Christ's way is brought about by the whole body: The whole body _____ of the body (16)
19. Church growth Christ's way is sourced in Christ alone: _____ (16)

Church Growth Christ's Way: Mature Unity from Christ in the Body by the Body

Walk in a manner worthy of your calling in Christ in the context of His body the church (1-6)

- The characteristics behind a worthy walk as a church (2a)
 - Humility: Lowliness of mind evidenced by not thinking of yourself
 - Gentleness: Strength under control which expresses itself in a humble submissive spirit.
 - Patience: Bearing up under persistent sufferings or aggravations without grumbling or retaliation
- The path to actively pursue a worthy walk as a church (2b-3)
 - Showing loving tolerance
 - Diligently preserving unity
- The foundations of the unity preserved in a worthy walk as a church (4-6)
 - Diligently preserve the unity built on the Spirit, the Son and the Father.

As Christ brings about a mature unity in His body by the body (7-16)

- A mature unity through the diversity of Christ's gifts to each person in His body (7-10)
 - All those who are in Christ have been given a spiritual gift (7)
 - As a consequence of Christ's victory (8-10)
 - A victory secured because of Christ's descent at the incarnation for the purpose of the cross (9)
 - A victory that results is Christ's Lordship over everything (10)
- A mature unity specifically through Christ's equipping gifts to His body (11-16)
 - The identification of those equipping gifts (11)
 - Apostles
 - Prophets
 - Evangelists
 - Pastor-Teachers
 - The purpose of the equipping gifts (12)