

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 4:11-16 Paul continues teaching on the diversity present in the unified body of Christ by explaining 2 facts concerning gifts Christ gave the church.

- I. Christ's gifts to the body include specific people (v. 11).
- II. Christ's gifts to the body include a specific goal: to equip the body (v. 12a).
  - A. For the work of ministry (v. 12b).
  - B. To build itself up (v. 12c).
    1. Until the goals are reached.
      - a. Unity (v. 13a).
      - b. Maturity (v. 13b).
      - c. Christ-likeness (v. 13c).
    2. Negatively: avoiding immaturity.
      - a. No longer children (v. 14a).
      - b. No longer unstable (v. 14b).
      - c. No longer gullible (v. 14c).
    3. Positively: growing into Christ.
      - a. In what manner?  
By lovingly speaking truth (v. 15).
      - b. From what source?  
Christ (v. 16a).
      - c. By what means?  
The whole body working properly (v. 16b, c).
      - d. With what result?  
The whole body building itself up in love (v. 16d).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 18, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 4:11-16

Memory Passage: Ephesians 4:11-16 (review 1:1-4:10)

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 4:11-16.** Of which class of “apostles” does Paul refer in v. 11 (the 12? Paul, an apostle though “untimely born” [cf. 1 Cor. 15:8]? Other apostles such as Barnabas, James, and Apollos?)? On what basis do you make your choice?
- (b) What was the role of these apostles, these gifts to the church?
- (c) Read the following verses and record what you learn about NT prophets: **Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:7, 10; 13:2; 14:22-33.**
- (d) Are apostles and prophets still given as gifts to the church today? Explain your answer using your Biblical evidence.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** Explain the function of the remaining 3 gifts to the church: evangelists, shepherds, and teachers (the last two are separate, though related, offices rather than one office of shepherd-teacher or pastor-teacher).
- (b) Verse 12 contains the purpose for which the gifts in v. 11 were given (12a) and the goal of this purpose (v. 12b). Explain both, and how they are related (notice that 12b records the purpose of 12a, not another purpose for which the gifts are given).
- (c) Explain all 3 prepositional phrases found in v. 13, including how they are related (i.e. are they all describing the same thing, or are they each describing something different with each one building on the preceding phrase, or something else?).
- (d) How do each of the gifts to the church mentioned in v. 11 “equip the saints for the work of ministry,” and how does the resulting “building up of the body of Christ” lead to the maturing of the church mentioned in v. 13?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** Verse 14 describes a situation that will be avoided as the church grows into maturity. Explain each of the 3 phrases in v. 14 that explain what causes these children to be “tossed and carried about” (“by . . . by . . . by”).
- (b) What qualities of “children” lead them to be “tossed” and “carried about” in Paul’s metaphor?
- (c) Verses 15-16 describe the intended results (“Rather”) of the maturity described in v. 13. What does “speaking the truth in love” actually look like? Explain this in some detail, mentioning both what it is and what it is not.
- (d) Explain the main idea of this section: “we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”
- (e) How does speaking the truth in love facilitate this idea? Will it happen in BCC if we love without truth or speak without love? Explain.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** Verse 16 answers the “how” question concerning the body’s growth. How is this growth related to Christ?
- (b) Explain the metaphor of the body (i.e. how is it joined and held together, what are the joints, with what have they been equipped, etc.).
- (c) Proper working of our joints is essential to the body’s growth. How will BCC know if all our joints are working properly?
- (d) The body “builds itself up in love.” How is this accomplished?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:1-16.** How does our walk & unity (vs. 1-6) affect BCC’s proper functioning (vs. 11-16)?
- (b) What do the gifts Christ has given to individuals (vs. 7-10) have to do with BCC’s proper functioning (vs. 11-16)?
- (c) What challenges face BCC that threaten to lead us to be the improperly functioning body of v. 14 and how must we meet these challenges? What must the leadership of BCC do in order for us to properly function?

DATE: June 18, 2017

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