

UNITY AND DIVERSITY

Message #7: Ephesians 4:7-16

October 18, 2020

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets,
some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers,
to prepare God's people for works of service,
so that the body of Christ may be built up*

Ephesians 4:11-12

Both unity and diversity

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body
But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it*

Ephesians 4:4,7

- 1) "The One, the Three, and the Many" is a problem of _____
- 2) We are "one" _____ and "one" _____
- 3) Body-life is a "new" experience of _____

A closer look at the setting, Psalm 68

*But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says,
"When he ascended on high,*

he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." [Psalm 68:18]

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

It was he who gave some to apostles

Ephesians 4:7-11

- 1) The King descends in order to _____
- 2) The King ascends in order to _____

Scene 1, Part 2: Walking in maturity (and connected to our Head!)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ

And he gave some as apostles,

and some as prophets,

and some as evangelists

and some as shepherds and teachers,

toward the equipping [the making ready for a purpose] of the saints [but note alternate trans. in KJV]

into works of service [diakonos]

to the building up of the body of Christ,

until we attain, every one, to the unity of the faith,

and of the knowledge of the Son of God.

into a mature [“complete”, from telos] man,

into the measure of the maturity [see Luke 2:52] which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

in order that we would no longer be infants [see 1 Corinthians 3:11]

tossed here and there by waves

carried about by every wind of doctrine

by means of the trickery of men

by means of the craftiness that comes from schemes of deceit

instead, truthing in love,

(in order that) we may grow up

into him in all [aspects] who is the head, Christ,

out of whom the whole body

joined together [like the promises we make together in a betrothal]

and connected together [organically] through the contribution of every joint

according to the working of each individual member

(it is Christ) who causes the growth of the body for building itself up [oikos + dome] in love.

Ephesians 4:7-16 (Doug’s expanded translation based on the NASV, but note the subject of the final verb!)

The heart of the church (without using the word “church”)

- 1) What does the Author want to teach us about the characters in this drama?
- 2) What does the Author of this drama want to reveal about the setting of the drama?
- 3) What does the Author teach us about the plot, about our journey as the New Humanity?
- 4) What does the Author reveal about himself?

Gifts for the “common good”

There are different gifts, but the same Spirit, There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Now to each one of the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 14:1

- 1) Our Trinitarian God again reveals himself in _____
- 2) Both instructions about being the church end in _____
- 3) _____ matters so reconciliation is not _____

Resources for further studies of Ephesians

For studying Ephesians 4

Spurgeon’s “Head and Body” sermon is a beautiful look at our connection to the Head at

<https://www.monergism.com/head-and-body-ephesians-415-16>

Maclaren’s short commentary at <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mac/ephesians-4.html>

Riddlebarger’s takes the pastor-as-minister view at <http://kimriddlebarger.squarespace.com/sermons-on-ephesians/Building%20Up%20the%20Body%20edited%209.pdf>

Bob Deffinbaugh at <https://bible.org/seriespage/11-calling-and-conduct-christian-ephesians-41-16>

This is a wonderful Bible Project introduction on youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=Y71r-T98E2Q&feature=emb_logo

Bob Deffinbaugh’s Ephesians series is at <https://bible.org/series/ephesians-glory-god-church>

Spurgeon’s series of messages on Ephesians are at http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r_eph.htm

Kim Riddlebarger’s sermons on Ephesians are at <http://kimriddlebarger.squarespace.com/sermons-on-ephesians/?jsessionid=3799445CA50CA06F2F395D4FBE89D586.v5-web017>

ThirdMill has produced “Paul and the Ephesians” at <https://thirdmill.org/seminary/lesson.asp/vid/19/version/>

Desiring God, John Piper’s media ministry, has some wonderful resources at

<https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/ephesians/1/messages>

Mark Johnston’s “Preaching Ephesians” at <https://www.reformation21.org/articles/preaching-ephesians.php>

Doug’s favorite commentaries are John R. W. Stott’s *The Message of Ephesians* (IVP, 1979), William Hendriksen, *Exposition of Ephesians* (Baker Book House, 1967); Ephesians in the *Expositor’s Bible Commentary* (Zondervan, 1981) by A. Skevington Wood; and, much shorter, F. F. Bruce’s *The Epistle to the Ephesians* (Revell, 1961).

Martyn Lloyd-Jones has a wonderful seven volume series on Ephesians (Baker Books, 1978).

The text we spent the most time on in Darrell Johnson’s class was Timothy Gombis’ *The Drama of Ephesians* (IVP Academic, 2010)

The Gospel Coalition has resources on Ephesians at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/ephesians/>

F.F. Bruce’s paraphrase is available at https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1962-3_163.pdf

Working outline of Ephesians

Overall Theme:

Chapters 1-3 The Glory of God in the Church

Chapter 1 The glory of God in redemption

Chapter 2 The glory of God in reconciliation

Chapter 3 The glory of God in the revelation of the mystery of the church

Chapters 4-6 The Glory and Pleasure of God through the Church

Chapter 4 The glory of God in the unity and growth of the church

Chapter 5 The glory of God in the imitation of Christ by the saints

Chapter 6 The glory of God in victory of Christ

