

...the main points again

Preserving the Unity 4: 1 -3

We are not instructed to MAKE the unity or 'be unified'. Instead we are told to PRESERVE the unity and to guard it.

The basis of Unity 4: 4-6

Unity is based on Christ and our identification with Him.

The source of Diversity - GRACE 4:7-8..

We have a unity that is rooted in Christ, but we also have a diversity that is rooted in Christ.

'But I digress...' vv 9 - 10

Paul takes a moment to quote and explain Psalm 68. –

The goal of growth vv 11 -13

A spiritual gift is a God-given ability for service. In this simple definition, we see three concepts.

- a. God-given: This is their SOURCE.
- b. Involve an ability: This is their MEANING.
- c. For service: This is their PURPOSE.

The result of the growth... 14 -16

The fact of our growth brings about certain results.

We are no longer to be children. *We are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ (4:15).*

Conclusion: Full circle...

Paul began with a call to preserve the unity that we have in Christ and he finishes in the same way - It is only as each member of the body of Christ pulls together – using and developing the gifts we have been given - that this unity is preserved.

And the result? The growth of the body!!

...so what...

Eph 4: 1-16

*What are the characteristics of a life 'worthy of our calling' v13?
Why are these 'virtues' so important for maintaining unity?*

We are commanded to keep the unity of the Spirit. But Paul also says we already have one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of all. How do these seven 'ones' contribute to actually living out true Unity?

How does Spiritual infancy differ from spiritual maturity? What practical things can we do to move towards spiritual maturity ourselves? Are there ways we can encourage others towards Spiritual Maturity?

What 'winds and waves' are 'blowing and tossing' the church today? How does this impact the way we seek to be God's people in our day to day life?

While 4:16 sets out the unity we have as believers, 4: 7-11 describes our uniqueness through the individual gifts we have received. Think about how Paul's explanation of the proper function and goal of these gifts bring us right back to the opening theme of Ephesians 4?

In v16 Paul says that the body 'grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work' What steps are we taking - should we take - to see this fully worked out in our fellowship?

Spend some time praying together about the implications of this passage for us as individuals as well as our fellowship?

Sunday November 9th

Living the



Ephesians
Way...

One giver, many gifts

Ephesians 4: 1 - 16