

Ephesians 4.7-16

The One and the Many

One Day – Lunch with Pentecostal Pastor friend in Jack in Box in Hawaii

Member from his church came in > Awkward Moment > Oh, oh, the Pastor!

Pastor David “Hi...I have been MISSING You at Church!”

Not Sure about Christianity – IF it were TRUE – How come So Many churches?

Without Missing a Beat – David kindly said, “That’s how Much God Loves You!

God so loved world, many ways to hear his message - churches w/ all

styles, times, places, sizes, days of week - technobop to symphonic

vs. 1-6 WE ARE ONE 7 X's "one" / body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God

UNITY DOES NOT MEAN UNIFORMITY

UNITY OF THE CHURCH - EXPRESSED IN DIVERSITY

SHIFTS GEARS INTO v. 7 But grace was given to each one of us...

CHURCH NOT BORING, Monotonous, COLORLESS UNIFORMITY

DIVERSE UNITY- DIFF CULTURES, Styles, Callings, MINISTRIES

### 1. Goal of God’s Plan for Christ’s Church

v. 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

MODERN SLOGAN "Church Exists for the World"- Distorted Half Truth

1<sup>st</sup> & FOREMOST - Church Exists for God - CALL TO SUBMISSION

We are a People for His Name - Make His Glory Known on Earth

MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO IS WORSHIP

WILL BE NO MATURITY IN ANY CHURCH WITHOUT UNITY

WORD OF GOD IS BASIS FOR UNITY

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." John 17.17

"I pray... that all of them may be one" John 17.20

solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil Hebrews 5.14

**GREATEST HINDRANCE to MATURITY - SEED of WORD of GOD Choked**

...those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. Luke 8.14

**WHAT IS IT TO BE MATURE? Equal to Physical Age? Spiritual Age?**

Is it Possible for Young Person to be Mature?

Possible for Older Person to be Immature?

The mature person is big enough on the inside to control themselves on the outside.

**EVIDENCES OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY**

a. **Childish Christians** / v. 14 children, tossed to and fro by the waves

**JESUS SAYS WE ARE TO BE CHILDLIKE - Complete Trust in God**

**BUT WE ARE NOT TO BE CHILDISH - Unstable and Naive**

**Fads BOUNCING BACK & FORTH FROM MINISTRY TO MINISTRY**

**CHURCH HOPPING - ONE EXCITING EXPERIENCE TO ANOTHER**

**CHILDREN - SHORT ATTENTION SPAN- OFTEN CHANGE MINDS**

When **MARK TWAIN** was 20 - said his father was "ignorant and out of date"

at 30 he "saw some improvement in his father"

at age 40 declared his father "had come a long ways"

NOT AFRAID OF THE “C” WORD - NOT CANCER – COMMITMENT

Challenge to Ministry Planning > Keep Options Open > Don't Commit

If GET LOCKED into Something > Something BETTER May Come Along!

FAITHFULNESS & STABILITY - MARKS OF XTIAN MATURITY

ANOTHER HINDERANCE TO MATURITY –

DECEIVED BY THOSE WHO SOUND

RIGHT

v. 14 carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes

CHILDREN CAN BE NAIVE- EASILY DECEIVED -taken by Strangers

IMPORTANCE of THEACHING THEM CHRISTIAN VALUES & IDEAS

AM I MATURING IN CHRIST?

Am I Growing Out of Childish Fads? ABIDING IN CHRIST - ROOTED

Am I Avoiding Falsehood? GROWING IN HIS WORD - READING

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1.3

ALL WE NEED TO BECOME MATURE IS OURS NOW IN HIM

b. Christ-like Christians

v. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ

1) Truth / Talk v. 15 speaking the truth in love

WORD NOT REALLY "speaking" - DOING / TRUTHING / LIFESTYLE

"maintaining, living, and doing the truth"

the truth is in Jesus

Ephesians 4.21

NOT Proposition > Relationship w/ PERSON Jesus: "I am the truth" John 14.6

**WE CAN ENTER INTO HIS TRANSFORMING TRUTH**

v. 25 let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor

2) Love / Walk v. 15 speaking the truth in love - "truthing in love"

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 1 Corinthians 13.4-6

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2.8

**MATURE XTIAN HAS the TALK AND the WALK - Both Held Together**

Truth becomes hard if it is not softened by love; love becomes soft if it is not strengthened by truth. The apostle calls us to hold these together, which should not be difficult for Spirit-filled believers, since the Holy Spirit is himself the 'Spirit of truth' and his firstfruit is 'love'." John Stott

**SOME THINK - THEY NEED TO LEAVE THE CHURCH TO GROW**

**MATURITY IS A CORPORATE EXPERIENCE - not just Individual**

v. 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

The human body has no 'pleasure nerves.' While specific nerves monitor pain, cold, heat and touch. Pleasure comes only when all the organs work together, the result of an enzyme that bathes the nerves and causes the ecstasy of community.

Dr. Paul Brand

## 2. The Gifts

**GIFTS TO CHURCH - People - filled with His Spirit, called to certain tasks**

v. 7 grace was given to each one of us / GRACE for Salvation & SERVICE

GIFTS GIVEN BY JESUS TO BUILD HIS CHURCH  
WE WILL BE ASKED - WHAT HAVE WE DONE WITH OUR GIFTS

PHYSICAL Health and Strength, Mind, Money, STUFF!

SPIRITUAL - DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR GIFTS ARE?

SHORT LIST HERE - others in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4

v. 11 the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers

BEGINS WITH THOSE WHO DO WORK OF

a. Pioneering GOING TO PEOPLE UNREACHED BY GOSPEL OF X

1) Far "apostles" - OTHER CULTURES / PEOPLES - REGIONS BEYOND

LIT - One who is sent with authority / e.g. Commissioned by Christ

NT Apostles - THE TWELVE - trained by Jesus - Paul replaced Judas

2) Near "evangelists" HOME MISSIONS / our Jerusalem

WORK WE ALL NEED TO DO - TELLING OTHERS OF JESUS

NT use of WORD "Evangelist" NOT Always INVOLVE > TRAVELING

Philip – One of 7 first DEACONS – we...came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven Acts 21.8

TIMOTHY Overseer of Church in EPHESUS...

endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry 2 Timothy 4.5

EARLY CHURCH - EFFECTIVE EVANGELISTIC METHOD - Gossip!!

IN NATURAL CONVERSATIONS OF LIFE, INFORMAL, FRIENDLY

85% OF PEOPLE IN CHURCHES - BECAUSE FRIEND INVITED THEM

Dwight MOODY to man "Sir, are you a Christian?"

MAN "Mind your own business" / MOODY "Sir, this is my business!"

Not Everyone has GIFT of Evangelist / ALL Responsible to Evangelize

b. Proclaiming "prophets" STRENGTHENED WORK OF APOSTLES

God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...

1Corinthians 12.28

RECEIVED GOD'S WORD - SPOKE IT - INSIGHT AND POWER

Apostles & Prophets held ONCE for ALL OFFICE

Unique Calling > AUTHORS of Now Completed NEW TESTAMENT

household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets

Ephesians 2.20

it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. Ephesians 3.5

BOTH- MINISTRY & MESSAGE APOSTLES & PROPHETS - Foundation

FINALITY TO THEIR WORK

contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints Jude 3

CLOSING OF THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE - NT COMPLETE -

NO Need for a BOOK MORMON or a Holy Quran

FINAL Letters of 2 Best Known Apostles – PAUL and PETER

2 Timothy / 2 Peter both say they KNOW they will DIE SOON

NO Plan made for APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION – Work of Apostle's DONE

END of APOSTLES but NOT End of ADVANCE of WORD of God

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season 2 Timothy 4.2

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp

shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

2 Peter 1.16-19

OLD Apostle Peter about to DIE (v. 14) – Crucified UPSIDE Down?? Legend

CERTAIN going to Be with Jesus – EYEWITNESS of Transfigured GLORY

Anticipating he will Soon SEE that GLORY ONCE Again

Great MIRACLE – We have Something MORE SURE than MIRACLE!

Will Not Hear Voice from Heaven – Like Peter at Transfiguration

HEAR Voice of Jesus in PROPHETIC Word – BIBLE – Shining LAMP

You will DO WELL to HOLD Faithfully to that FINAL Word of SCRIPTURE

GIFT OF APOSTLE & PROPHETS IN OUR HANDS – BIBLE

Wanna HEAR Apostle or Prophet – Read 66 Books of Bible

CERTAIN > AUTHENTIC, AUTHORITATIVE Words of God

CENTRAL FEATURE IN ALL OF GIFTS IS THE WORD OF GOD

WORD OF GOD DEFINES GIFTS - What they Are, How to Use

WORD OF GOD IS WHAT GIFTS ARE FOR - Make it Known

PIONEERING, PROPHECY, PERFECTING Various Stages of Word Ministry

Is MINISTRY of Pioneering New Territory OVER?? By No Means

2000 yrs Christianity - MORE KNOW OF COCA-COLA than JESUS Christ

97% of the world has heard of this sugar and water concoction

2 Billion people world-wide have no access to the good news of Jesus Christ!

17 million people die every year without having heard the name of Jesus!

Very DIFFERENT Ministry OPERATION Now that we have Complete Bible

A & P of NT – “Thus says the Lord” – WE Today: “The Bible Says”

### c. Perfecting "pastors and teachers" RESIDENT MINISTRY

v. 11 the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers

DEFINITE ARTICLE NOT REPEATED - ONE OFFICE

PAUL WRITES TO TIMOTHY - LEADER OF THIS Ephesian CHURCH

Now the overseer must be...able to teach 1 Timothy 3:2

TITUS - LEADER OF CHURCH IN CRETE - OVERSEER must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1.9

INTENTION OF JOINING WORDS - "pastor-teacher"

1) Instruction and 2) Insight - EXPLAIN AND APPLY

KNOW WHAT BIBLE SAYS - WHERE CHURCH SHOULD BE GOING

ALL Pastors MUST be Teachers of Word, NOT All Teachers of Word R Pastors

### 3. The Game Plan -How these Gifts Work in the Church

EVERY MEMBER MINISTRY / EVERY MEMBER IS A MINISTER

WHO RUNS THE CHURCH? v. 15 "him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

HONORING HIM KEY TO PROPER RUNNING - Bible / owner's manual

Who does "works of service/MINISTRY"?

v. 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

Many say - PASTORS ARE paid TO DO Everything!!

OT - DEFINITE SEPARATE PRIESTHOOD - TRIBE OF LEVI Distinct

CHURCH - some called Rev. / Pastor / are these like OT priests??

NO! - ONLY NT PRIEST- HIGH PRIEST JESUS - & Sacrifice Too!



He loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father Revelation 1.5,6

NT - PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS - Direct Access to God in X

PEOPLE GET INTO BAD HABITS - let the pastor do work of ministry

"After all aren't we paying him a salary to do it for us?"

v. 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry

EQUIP / GET IN SHAPE / MAKE READY / GYM!!

"If you are a baptized Christian, you are already a minister. Whether you are ordained or not is immaterial. No matter how you react, the statement remains true. You may be surprised, alarmed, pleased, antagonized, suspicious, acquiescent, scornful or enraged. Nevertheless you are a minister (servant) of Christ"

Francis Ayers

PASTOR MUST NOT MONOPOLIZE MINISTRY -  
HE MUST MULTIPLY MINISTRY

OUR Involvement DEMANDED BY THE LORD OF THE CHURCH

WE ARE SERVANTS NOT SPECTATORS /  
INSTRUMENTS NOT ORNAMENTS

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10,11

GIFTS OF LEADERSHIP ARE SERVICE GIFTS - Follow Servant Leader

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10.45

#### 4. The Giver of God's Grace

a. Messiah JESUS IS FULFILLMENT OF OT / PROMISED ANOINTED

v. 8 When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train & gave gifts to men  
PSALM 68 - TRIUMPH AND VICTORY - BRING ARK INTO TEMPLE

GOD IS VICTOR OVER HIS ENEMIES

SEATED UPON HIS THRONE - Receiving Gifts & Homage from All People

When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious-- that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.

Psalm 68.18

RECEIVED GIFTS - PAUL SAYS HERE THAT HE GAVE GIFTS??

VICTORIOUS KING - Shared the Booty, the Prize of War w/ Subjects

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts 2.33

PRIZE OF VICTORY over CROSS - was HOLY SPIRIT – Jesus SHARES

THE OLD TESTAMENT FINDS ITS FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ and so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1.20

b. Savior Greatness seen IN HUMILITY - CAME TO SUFFER & DIE

v. 9 In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?

Verse basis of APOSTLES CREED "he descended into hell"

DESCENT WAS NOT SPATIAL BUT SPIRITUAL - from Glory to Cross

Descended from Exaltation to INCARNATION – as MAN He went even Lower

...Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross  
Philippians 2.5-8

## JESUS COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE GONE LOWER THAN CROSS

### c. Lord GLORY REVEALED IN HIS ASCENSION

v. 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things

### AFTER PAUL DESCRIBES THE DESCENT TO CROSS HE SAYS

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2.9-11

### GIVER RECOGNIZED - GIVEN THE CREDIT - HONOR, GLORY

Abraham Kuyper - Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Theologian

“There is not one square inch in all the universe about which Jesus Christ does not say, ‘It is mine’ ‘It is mine’!  
Abraham Kuyper

This JESUS -Messiah, Savior, Lord- GIVER OF every good & perfect GIFT  
 LORD of the Church – LOVER of His Church – LIVES in Midst of Church  
 CALLS Us to Himself – Calls us to ONE ANOTHER – PEOPLE of God

### DAVID LIVINGSTONE - Missionary to Africa - RECEIVED LETTER

"Have you found a good road to where you are? If so, we want to send other men to join you"

### RESPONSE REFLECTS WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MATURE CHRISTIAN

"If you have men who will come only if they know there is a good road. I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all"

David Livingstone

Ephesians 4.<sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.<sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."<sup>9</sup> (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?<sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,<sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.