

Our focus verses, Ephesians 4:14-16 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Book of Ephesians: Author is Paul, written while in first imprisonment in Rome. Not necessarily a “Problem Letter.” God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. God’s principles are the same. Rules can change.

Big themes in Ephesians: _____

Therefore?

Belief -> Identity -> Behavior

Big themes in 1st 3 chapters:

Big themes in last 3 (4-6) chapters

What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the calling?

What does that look like?

What are the 7 “Ones” listed? _____

What are the gifted roles God has given the church?

On the continuum, where am I? Roles -> Equipping -> Building up -> Unity -> Knowledge -> Maturity -> Measure of Stature -> Fullness of Christ

What are the results mentioned in verses 14 through 16 for me and for the church?

What are the takeaways for me?

- Big Idea: If Christ is in us, then we are gifted and a part of the body of Christ.
- Each of us is gifted so that we can make a difference in the local church, and be personally fulfilled at a deep level.
- A part of my personal fulfillment depends on me exercising that gift in faith for the benefit of the body. To deny that is to deny God working in me and deny the church of my gift.
- What are the benefits for me if I exercise my gift(s) in the local church in a deepening relationship with God?
- What is my responsibility in that area?

Ephesians 4: 14-16

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If Christ is in us then...

- We are changed.
- We are enabled to make a difference in this world for God.
- Our deepest needs are met.
- We are in intimate relationship with God.
- We are fulfilled to enjoy God's purpose for us.

Reading the Bible for all it is worth

- What does it say?
- What did that mean for the original audience?
- What does that mean for us today?
- What does that mean for me?

Book of Ephesians

- Letter authored by Paul.
- What do we know about Paul?
 - He was a Jew, raised, and trained in the Jewish faith.
 - He was devout in that faith, enough to brag about it.
 - He persecuted Christians.
 - He met Jesus (Damascus road blinding light experience).
- After Paul's conversion, he started and pastored churches.
- Subsequently, he wrote letters to some of those churches.
- Those letters eventually were circulated.

Most of the letters are “problem” letters.

- The most significant challenges of the New Testament Church are mentioned in those letters.
 - God’s principles were the same.
 - How they were carried out changed.
 - Those problems made New Testament churches messy.
 - The radical expression that God’s holiness was dealt with, not by continual inadequate blood sacrifices and rituals done in faith, but by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
 - Principles versus rules:
 - Relationship example

The book of Ephesians

- The letter the church at Ephesus was the exception.
 - There were no significant issues raised (not like church at Corinth!)
- There are two big divisions:
 - Chapters 1 through 3 are about who we are in Christ.
 - Chapters 4 through 6 are about what we are to do in Christ.

Big themes in the first three chapters

- Chapters 1 through 3 are about who we are in Christ: Our identity.
 - When God declares something it is true, regardless of our experience of that truth.
- We have the blessings of redemption.
- God’s grace deals with our sin.
 - “Sin” is a church word.
- Paul’s calling (authority and responsibility)
- We have the power of the indwelling Christ.

Big themes in the last three chapters

- Chapters 4 through 6 are about what we are to do in Christ (behavior follows identity).
 - Unity
 - Church is like a body
 - Christian walk
 - Imitators of God
 - Church is like marriage
 - Family relationships
 - The armor of God
 - The importance of faith

Let's read Ephesians 4:1-16

- What is the “therefore”, there for?
 - Based on all of those things about our God declared identity in chapters 1 through 3
 - The role of belief in determining identity
 - The role of identity of in determining behavior
 - How behavior feeds back into identity
- Those are the foundations of the “what” in Chapter 4

Let's break down our passage, 4:1-3

- “Prisoner of the Lord”
- “Walk in a manner worthy of the calling”
- With an attitude of...
 - Humility
 - Gentleness
 - With patience
 - Showing forbearance
 - In Love
 - Being diligent
 - To preserve unity
 - What does unity look and feel like?
- Is there a tripping point for you for which you need the help of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Seven Ones

- One body
- One Spirit
- One Lord
- One faith
- One baptism
- One God and Father
 - Over all and through all

Ephesians 4: 7-13

- Grace was given to each of us
- Vs 8-10: Christ alone is worthy because of what He did.
- Vs 11-13
 - Roles as gifts for the Church
 - Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers
 - Roles -> Equipping -> Building up -> Unity -> Knowledge -> Maturity -> Measure of Stature -> Fullness of Christ

Ephesians 4: 14-16

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Ephesians 4:14-16

- What is the result of all of that work and gifting?
 - We are not children tossed about.
 - We can speak the truth in love.
 - We are growing up.
 - We can participate in body life.
 - Each individual has a part:
 - Our example today; a transferrable concept

What are the takeaways?

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