

February 11, 2018

(Walk this Way Series: Ephesians 4,5)

“Unity in Diversity”, Ephesians 4: 7-16

In light of what Jesus has done for us, and who we are in Him as discussed in Ephesians 1-3, Paul emphasizes that Christians should live in unity (Eph. 4:1-6). Moving forward, in Eph. 4:7-16, the teaching focuses on how living in unity includes much diversity in spiritual gifts.

I. By grace, Jesus gives gifts to every member of his Church.

(Eph. 4:7-10, Romans 12:3-8, I Cor. 12:4-14) Grace here is what enables us to do ministry and service, and it is given by Jesus’ victorious authority (as in Psalm 68) to each believer.

II. We are to use our gifts in different roles to serve the Church. (Eph. 4: 11,12)

Christ gives gifts of leadership roles (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors/teachers) to train His people to do ministry themselves so that the body may be built up to “unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God”. (Eph. 4:13) We can know our gifts by simply starting to serve, asking ourselves what we love to do, asking others what they see in us, and asking how we could use our abilities in the real needs of the church.

III. By serving, the church grows in spiritual maturity. (Eph. 4:13-16)

According to Paul, a mature church that uses its gifts to serve: becomes more and more like Christ, is grounded (heart and mind) in God’s Word, and speaks the word of God’s truth in love (not wavering or deceived by false teachers or ideas).

IV. All members, empowered by Christ, use their gifts.

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Eph. 4:16)

Each of us has a part to play in building and growing the church. God has specifically given all of us the power of different gifts to help serve others and mature the church. We are diverse in our gifting and God has done that for a reason. We need each other! If we want to be a faithful, maturing church, we all need to use the gifts God has given us.

Discussion Questions:

1. List as many spiritual gifts as you can think of. See Eph. 4:11, Romans 12:3-8, I Cor. 12:4-14 What should all our spiritual gifts have in common? See Eph.4:12, I Cor. 14:12)
2. Can all our God given abilities and talents be used as spiritual gifts? How?
3. Would you like this small group to help you identify your spiritual gifts?
4. Why is diversity so important to unify and mature the church?
5. Are we actually speaking God’s truth to one another and to a lost world? Are we doing it in love? What would this look like?
6. In our fallen world, what we know in our minds, and what we do about God get broken apart. How could service (using our gifts), in a Bible teaching church, touch our actual experience in our relationship with God and others?
7. What does Perry Creek Church actually need now? How can we be a part of helping so that our church can “reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13)?