

Ephesians 4:1-16, part 1

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 8-26-15

Context

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. **New Standards - unity and purity** (4:1-5:21)
4. New Relationships (5:21-6:24)

Ephesians chs. 1-3 → God's magnificent vision for a reconciled, unified humanity, new community
Pivot point: Chapter 4 → New society to new standards; from doctrine to duty

General principle: _____ of God's new society:

1. It depends on the _____ of our character and conduct (v. 2)
2. It arises out of the _____ of God (vv. 3-6)
3. It is enriched by the _____ of our gifts (vv. 7-13)
4. It demands the _____ of our growth (vv. 13-16)

Review of #1-2:

1. The (Tri)Unity of God
 - Connect John 17:20-23 to Ephesians 4:1-6
 - Unity based upon the unity of the Trinity
 - His life _____ our life.
2. One loving body
 - Body metaphor (cf. Romans. 12:4-5)
 - The HS _____ this unity, but we have to _____ it
 - 5 characteristics (moral realities)
 - Lowliness - _____ of the mind (cf. Phil. 2)
 - Meekness - not weakness, but _____ of the strong
 - Patience and forbearance - longsuffering and restraint, tolerance, bearing one another in your hearts
 - Love - sum of all Christian virtue, holds everything together
 - Col. 3:14 - "perfect _____ of unity"
 - Cf. Prayer to be "rooted and grounded in love" (3:17)
 - V. 3 - "be diligent to **preserve** unity" - not enough to avoid disunity

3. The Diversity of Gifts (vv. 7-10)

V. 7 - "to **each one of us** grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."

- Spirit-enabled unity and _____

Group 1 - Vv. 7-10 - The Source of Gifts (focus on vv. 7-8)

Who is the giver and how is he described?

How might this be applied to a Biblical understanding of the church?

Group 2 - Vv. 11-13 - The Purpose and Result of Gifts (focus on v. 12)

What is the purpose of God providing Christian teachers/leaders? What is the ultimate result of the use of gifts for the church?

How might this be applied to a Biblical understanding of the church?