



Series:

WELCOME TO "CHURCH"

Title:

The Body of Christ and maturity in Christ (Part 6)

Preacher:

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Notes

Scriptures to reflect on:

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." ⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all 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. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ 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. (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Sermon review:

- The Body of Christ reflects the Unity we have in Christ - the One true Lord. We are bound together by One God and Father, One Spirit, One Faith, One Baptism with One Hope.
- The Body of Christ is "the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way." (see Ephesians 1:22-23)
- Maturity matters!
 - Each member is meant to be mature-attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
 - Each member grows when he/she is equipped to do the "works of service" and each part does its part.
 - Each member is meant to help the other members grow so that the whole body is mature.
 - Ultimately, the Body is built by love and the mark of maturity is whether I speak truth in love.



Reflection

Take time to re-read and meditate on Ephesians 4:1-16. Then think about the following. Here is an opportunity to in the last few Sunday's as we have discovered what it means to be the Body of Christ.

➤ "Walk worthy" — v. 1

Paul says, "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."

When you look at your life right now, where do you see your life reflecting your calling—and where is there a gap between what you believe and how you're living?

➤ The hard work of being "one" — vv. 2-3

Paul tells the church to be humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to maintain unity.

Which of those is hardest for you personally—humility, gentleness, patience, or bearing with difficult people? Why?

➤ "Each one of us" — v. 7

Paul says, "To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it."

Salvation is a gift/grace. But you were saved so that you could be gifted and be a gift! Your life is a gift. You have been uniquely SHAPED by God. So...if you genuinely believed that Christ has given you something necessary for His Body, what might you begin doing differently?

➤ The Body needs your part — vv. 11-16

Paul's picture isn't of a church where a few people do ministry while everyone else watches. The goal is that "each part does its work."

Where have you become a consumer of church rather than a contributor to the Body? What might Jesus be inviting you to contribute?

Now, put it all together. Would you spend some time praying over the TEAM card opportunities in light of your passions, gifts, experiences, and abilities and think about what the best fit for you is?

We could be so much more for our world if we would be more together!

Spend some time this week filling out the card. We hope you'll return it this Sunday. If you have any questions or thoughts I hope you'll reach out this week! brian@svccfamily.org or 575-571-5340.