



Sunday, January 21, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Ephesians 4:7-13

The New Testament's teaching on unity in the church is striking for a number of reasons. First, as we explored in chapter 2, the unity that Christ establishes in His church brings people together from all different religious, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. This is one aspect of the church that is not characteristic of any other organization in the world. Second, we see that the unity of the church is actually the focal point of the demonstration of the wisdom of God to the spirit-world. That was a focus in chapter 3.

Now, here in chapter 4, we realize that the unity of the church does not consist of everyone being and acting the same way. Instead, the unity of the church is characterized by a diversity of gifts. This is not by chance or happenstance. Rather, Christ Himself, as the Head of the church, has ensured that each Christian is given a gift to use in ministering or serving the body of Christ. The end goal of all of this is that we grow in maturity—meaning we are not tossed about by false doctrines which manifest themselves in false patterns of behavior that tarnish the name of Christ.

Context

In the first section of Ephesians 4, Paul describes what unity in the church ought to look like and the reason for its existence. Here in this section, Paul is unpacking that further by describing the diversity of gifts which Christ has given, but reminds them that the diversity of gifts is designed to build up the unified body of Christ toward maturity. All of this talk about unity and diversity will be further unpacked as Paul, in chapters 4-6, begins to describe behaviors consistent with our profession of faith in Christ and our identity as the unified body of Christ here on earth.

Read and Reflect (Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)

“Grace Gifts”

Read Ephesians 4:7-13

Ephesians 4.7 NASB

But to each one of us was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Ephesians 4

- The gifted *believers* 7
- The Giver *Jesus* 7-10
- The goal *maturity* 11-13

Categories

- Speaking gifts 1 Pet. 4.10
- Serving gifts 1 Pet. 4.10
- Sign gifts 2 Cor. 12.12

The risen Christ

Has gifted each believer

For works of service

To build up the body of Christ

Discuss

- 1) What does it say about God that He gives gifts to every one of His people, not just a few?

- 2) How have you seen others use their spiritual gifts to serve others and build up the church?

- 3) What is/are your spiritual gift(s)? How do you know?

- 4) How are you using your gifts for ministry and building up the body of Christ?

- 5) In what ways will your spiritual gifts contribute to the goal of maturity within the body of Christ?