

Refresh (September 26, 2021) “Growing Together”

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Ephesians 4:1-16

1. Describe the three mindsets Paul presents for believers to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1-2) and why these are so imperative.

2. In Ephesians 4:3-6 Paul urges believers to be “eager to *maintain* the unity of the Spirit” while in Ephesians 4:13 he mentions building up the body to “*attain* to the unity of the faith...” What do the words “*maintain*” and “*attain*” indicate about God’s role in our unity and our calling about the body of Christ?

3. Identify the Trinity from Ephesians 4:4-6. Since the Triune God is a unity of persons who are different but equal, what do you learn regarding being in the body of Christ? How should the fact that the Triune God lives inside of you as a believer impact you as you deal with fellow believers, especially those who are challenging?

4. The grace in Ephesians 4:7 is the grace for ministry. Each believer has been given gifts to build up the body of Christ. The measure (Ephesians 4:7, 13) to which gifts are given is needed to make the full measure of the body of Christ. In other words, "That people are recipients of grace makes them gifts to the church...a gift is merely the way the Spirit works through a person for the good of the community" (NIV Application Commentary-Ephesians p. 201-2, 213 by Klyne Snodgrass). "We don't just have God's gifts. We are God's gifts to the church. So, my church is not just there in order to bless me, as though I am a shopper filling my basket in the supermarket. The opposite is true: we're saved and given to our churches as gifts to bless others by serving them. We are not meant to be consumers but contributors" (Ephesians For You p. 120 by Richard Coekin).

Share your considerations to the above comments.

How have you witnessed "grace" given to others that has benefited the church and you?

5. For what purpose did Christ gift the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers? What does this mean for you?

6. According to Paul, what are the dangers of remaining as children? What does he instruct regarding how we mature and become a healthy body with Christ as the head?