

## Ephesians 4:7-16 Church 101

**Intro: I am not going to do a mothers day message today – continue in our study of Ephesians – Just started section 2 = WALK**

A) First thing that Paul writes to us – **Walk in a manner worthy of your Calling** – Walk = manner of Life – Worthy = weight

B) Idea: Walk or manner of life would be equal to your calling

C) We noted that – **the First aspect of what that looks like has to do with our relationships in the Body of Christ**

1) Been made one in Jesus – V.4-6 <sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

D) That is how we all are one – Same faith – same Lord – same spirit – Same God and father

1) We are to celebrate that unity – V.3 Endeavor – fight hard to keep that unity.

**Today We are going to see today – God’s desire and purpose is for his Church.**

A) And I think we will be able to draw a parallel of what a Mom desires for her kids is very similar to what God desires for his Church **Rd V.7-10**

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,

He led captivity captive,

**And gave gifts to men.”**

<sup>9</sup> (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

**Now in v. 8-10 Paul is quoting from Psalm 68 – Speaking of Christ**

A) He didn’t descend from Heaven & come to earth as a man to give his life and **Descend further into the Grave – just to save us**

B) He Descended – **He came to give his life – to set the Captives free**

1) But He also Rose & has ascended into Heaven – that He might empower us to now Serve God – He has given Gifts to men !!!

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

A) So here in verse seven Paul turns from **ALL of us to EACH of us**, from the **UNITY to the DIVERSITY** w/ in the Church.

Aa) Now the grace here is not **saving grace**. Of course saving grace is given to each one of us.

1) That’s why we’re saved. That’s why we’re here.

**B) But he’s not talking about saving grace here. What he’s talking about is SERVING GRACE**

1) And there’s a distinction between those two things.

C) There’s grace that saves us. And then there’s grace that is supplied to empower us to serve God.

1) Enabling Grace -

C) It is the ability to perform the task God has called us to.

D) Paul used the word grace with this same idea of that which enables in writing to Timothy 2 Tim 2:1

You therefore my son be strong (continually allow yourself to be strengthened or empowered with divine power) in the **grace** that is in Christ Jesus.

A) Enabling grace is measured out to be consistent with what is necessary for the operation of Christ’s gift.

B) Each of us has received this enabling grace in the exact proportion that Christ gave it.

**C) There is a parallel use in Romans 12 turn there:**

<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, *being many*, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

<sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us*

*prophecy* in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> or ministry, *let us use it in our ministering*; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

**These Gifts are specialized functions, These gifts are like so many electrical appliances. There is great variety.**

**A) Think about the appliances in your Kitchen: Coffee maker/ Blender/ Toaster/ Microwave/ Refrigerator - They each have a different function –**

**B) But they all fit together and compliment each other in Kitchen**

**1) All have a place in fulfilling a the function of the Kitchen – making a meal**

**C) And they all operate off of the same power source. – The Same enabling grace!**

**1) The Key is how do we come to understand what our gifts are and how we are to use them?**

**D) Instruction/ Inclination / Opportunity**

### **Instruction**

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

**When the Lord was setting up his church – he set it up in such a way – Leadership –**

**A) 4 aspects of leadership**

**B) Apostles/ prophets – Instrumental in setting up the foundation of the Church of Jesus – Pointing to Christ – giving us the Word**

**C) Evangelist – Those gifted to preach with results – Peter was the first evangelist – 3,000 saved one time –**

**D) Pastor/teachers – John 21 Jesus gave us the picture.**

**1) Feed and tend – Feed the sheep the word – tend – love and care for their needs.**

**In the modern day church it might look this way.**

**A) Apostles = sent ones – Pioneers – church planters**

**B) Prophets = those who stir up the Body – exhorters – vision casters**

**C) Evangelist – Those with a gathering ministry – good at sharing Jesus with results – leading people to Christ – inviting to the Church**

**D) Pastor/teacher – Those called to teach the word – help the body get grounded in the Lord – grow in the Lord**

**Today when a church is starting –**

**A) You might have one person fulfilling all of those roles – or a team**

**B) But as the church grows there is more people fulfilling those roles**

**C) Pastor Chuck – teacher – always had someone who was functioning as an evangelist**

**1) Monday nights – Saturday nights**

**D) So these 4 groups of gifted people are functioning together with this goal in mind.**

**for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,**

**A) Now notice the overall goal 2 fold v.12 Equipping for Service – helping everyone discover the role**

**B) And the edifying or the building up of the body – Body as a whole is growing and becoming strong in the Lord**

**1) Individual people in the body are maturing in the Lord**

**C) Consider that word equipping for a minute**

**it is an interesting word in the grk**

**1) This verb, in the original language, is *katar/tismon*, from which we get our English word, *artisan* -- artist or craftsman, a mechanic,**

**D) It describes someone who works with his hands and accomplishes things.**

**1) The word first appears in the New Testament in connection with the calling of the disciples.**

When Jesus walked out along the Sea of Galilee, he saw the two pairs of brothers,  
A) Peter and Andrew and James and John, sitting in a boat,

B) They were mending their nets. The word "mending" is the word translated here "equipping."

C) Those nets would get stretched / torn and dirty – 1) they need to be fixed so they could be used again.

**So think about this: they were mending, their nets - they were equipping their nets;**

A) They were getting them ready; they were fixing them up, preparing them.

B) That is the job of the Church – you see people are like those nets – have been torn by life / 1) stretched by stressful circumstances - Some have been dirtied by others

C) The Job of the Church { Jesus working thru His Church } is to mend and to fix – 1) broken and stretched people – Equipping them to become useful to God !!!

**We all come here broken**

A) Our world discards broken things – but God puts a premium on broken things

B) Earthen Vessels who the light shines through

C) The purpose of the church is to take broken things and make them useful again.

**Edify= Build up**

A) Take someone that has been broken by sin, broken by the world, broken by life – build them up again

B) Remember the show – the Six Million dollar Man – Lee Majors – the Bionic Man – We can rebuild him – we can make him better, stronger, faster

C) That is what Jesus wants to do through the church with each one of us  
1) Rebuild us – make us into his image

D) But the means isn't 6 million dollars – it is his enabling grace

1) It is him working through – other members of the body – encourage each other

**3 Fold Purpose of this work: V.13-16**

<sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

**Our Maturity is going to be seen in 3 ways**

#1 We are individually and collectively becoming more like Christ

<sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

**Growing into the Head**

A) Child as it matures – grows into it's head –

B) Jesus is the head of the Church – as we grow – we are growing into him.

C) We start to resemble Jesus – reflect Jesus

**How much like Christ are we becoming?**

A) Asking ourselves these type of questions: Are we becoming more & more **others centered & less self centered ?**

B) Are our lives being marked by a desire to **serve others & to sacrifice** for others  
1) Are we becoming givers or are we just takers ?

C) Are we seeing people w/ **His eyes - dealing w/ People w/ his heart ?**  
When they hear our voice is it a reflection of His voice

Mark Thompson of Faribault, Minnesota, suffered terrible knife wound when someone broke into his home, One of the consequences of his difficult recovery was being forced to miss watching his son Chris run in the state cross-country championship meet. So **Mark asked his brother Merv to go in his place.**

According to the account in the St. Paul Pioneer Press / Mark told his brother, *"I can't be there to see Chris run. So I want you there at the beginning of the race. Holler a lot. ... Then at the end, I want you to really cheer loudly. And I want you to make your voice sound like my voice.*

Merv heeded the advice, and Chris ran a strong race, finishing second. Merv, discerned a deep theological truth in the process.

"That's what Jesus wants us to do." he thought  
**"Make our voice sound like HIS."** TONE / HEART

**Parents when our kids are listening to our voice – how much of what they are hearing for us is reflective of the voice of Christ ?**

A)Husbands – when you talk to your wife – how much is your tone – like that of Jesus as he talked to his disciples?

B)Challenging thing to consider as a church – how like Jesus are we in the way that we do things  
1)In the ways that we conduct ourselves

C)We have all been to the Carnival – **Headless figure painted on the Plywood of the –**  
1) strong man or the Jail bird or the Cowboy

**You stand behind it someone snaps a picture and it is funny because the head and the body just don't go together – Just don't fit ?**

A)Question I have often pondered If we could put Christ Head over this body of Believers –

B)would the world laugh – because it doesn't fit ?

C)Or would they stand in awe because the body was so closely related to the Divine head?

**INTERESTING THING TO PONDER**

D)Or consider this – Kids in Children's ministry learning about Jesus

1)That sounds like my mom, dad, grandpa/ gma

**Now I know that there is not a person in this room who is going to ever truly reflect Christ**

A)None of us is perfect – we are all **Flawed sinners**

B)We fail / we blow it – we mess up often – myself included

C) But I think that the Lord would have us today – consider – really ponder this reality :

1)That is the goal – that is the mark of MATURITY

D)Jesus is the head of the Church - and are we growing into the Head!

1)First individually – second collectively

**Goal #2 That we would become grounded -**<sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

A)This is why we spend so much time studying the word of God so that you can be grounded

B)So familiar with the truth that you can easily recognize a lie.

C)Guard against counterfeit money – Count the real thing all day

1)Immediately tell the difference

**A built up mature believer is stable – not up and down or all over the place tossed by different winds of doctrine**

A)Not running all over the place from thing to thing

**Goal #3 We become a functioning member of the Body.**

V.16<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

A)Joined and knit together – tendons and muscles – connected together

B)I know my place and function – result is effective working – effective energy – every part does it's share

C) Now what happens in the Human body – one part gets hurt or rebels

1) There is not effective working – body isn't functioning

**That is what happens in the body of Christ**

A) People in the body don't participate –

B) Don't forsake the assembling ..... Stir up one another .... Love and good works – even more as you see the day approaching

C) You have a place – you have a function

**How do you discover that -**

A) Instruction

B) Inclination: What is your natural inclination when you hear of a need?

**Example**

**Which gifts do you have? Where are you drawn ?**

A) Liam analogy - what would be your reaction ?

B) What a clutz! Let someone else deal w/ that !

1) Not saved- REPENT

C) HOW YOU would naturally respond is a good inclination – YOUR ROMANS 12 GIFT

**Prophecy** " Watch your step , pitfalls in life watch out"

Ministry/HELPS "Where is the broom ? "

**Giving** "How much was that glass? Write a check"

Teaching "When carry glass wipe condensation / right amount of pressure w/ each hand!

**Exhortation** - "Come on Liam you can do this go & get another glass / I'm pulling for you buddy.

Leads "Who designed these steps that way

**Mercy** "Come here honey / I know just how you feel I Did the same thing in the 3rd grade."

**Your natural inclination is a good idea of your gifting in the body**

A) So when you see a need – God is wanting you to be a part of the solution

B) Hear of an opportunity – Prayerfully consider

C) Lord is that something you want me to get involved in

**Result: You will be blessed – fulfilling your purpose  
The body will be built up.**