

Key Notes from Ephesians 4

Alliance Bible Church of McHenry

Verses 7—16

Rev. Paul R. Martin

Sunday, March 31, 2019

v. 7: Unity exists in diversity

- 1) we are one in faith, serving one God through our Lord Jesus Christ
- 2) and, we are not independent, we are one body, members of one another
- 3) but, we are not the same in function or ability
- 4) we must not be jealous or envious of others, or covet their position—Christ has given sovereignly and we are to be obedient to Him, serving humbly according to the measure of our gifting

vv. 8-10 Christ ascended on high and established His Church

- 1) He ascended and established the Church because He had descended to the lower parts of the earth
- 2) What are the lower parts of the earth? The womb (dark & mysterious) Psalm 139:15 and the grave (also dark and mysterious from our perspective)

vv. 11-12 He gave offices to the Church to aid the saints in expressing their spiritual gifts and building up the Church

- 1) these individuals, chosen and called by Christ, are not spiritual gifts (gifts of the Spirit), but they have spiritual gifts for the performance of their duties
- 2) Offices of the Church given by Christ vs gifts of the Spirit:

GIVER	NATURE OF THE GIFT	RECIPIENT OF THE GIFT
Christ Who Ascended	Individual persons	the Church
Holy Spirit Who came down	Functional abilities	individuals in the Church
- 3) these called individuals are to build up the Body of Christ by
 - a. church planting and cross-cultural ministry (Apostles)
 - b. bringing God's messages to the Body of Christ (Prophets)
 - c. proclaiming the Gospel and influencing people to turn to Christ (Evangelists)
 - d. shepherding local congregations & teaching Biblical truth (Pastors & Teachers)
- 4) they all are to build up the Church by teaching individuals how to perform their ministries

vv.13-16 When the officers are doing their job and the people are growing in their ministry

- 1) the Church grows in unity, maturity, and the fullness of Christ (13)
- 2) false doctrine is exposed and avoided, the people remain steadfast in the faith (14)
- 3) we learn how to speak the truth in love, growing in the likeness & character of Christ (15)
- 4) the participation of every individual and the ministry they provide is the glue that holds the Body together, causing it to grow and to be built up in love (which is the mark of a follower of Christ)