

What is the Purpose of the Church?

Lesson 2: Ephesians 4:1-16,

Hebrews 10:24-25

June 11, 2017

Outline

- Ephesians 4:1-16
- 1 Corinthians 12
- 1 Peter 4:7-11
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- What the church is not
- What the church is

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Outline

- 4:1-3 The worthy Christian life
- 4:4-6 The unity of the Christian life
- 4:7-13 The diversity of the Christian life
- 4:14-16 The result of the Christian life

The worthy Christian life Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord,
implore you to walk in a manner
worthy of the calling with which you
have been called,

- Therefore
- Prisoner
 - Physically
 - “in the Lord”
- Implore – to urge strongly, appeal to, urge, exhort, encourage
- Walk – to conduct one’s life
- Calling – invitation to experience of special privilege and responsibility
 - We didn’t call ourselves
 - Our calling has obligations

The worthy Christian life
Ephesians 4:2

with all humility and gentleness, with
patience, showing tolerance for one
another in love,

- In humility , not pride
- Gentleness – the quality of not being overly impressed by a sense of one’s self-importance
- Patience – state of being able to bear up under provocation

The worthy Christian life
Ephesians 4:3

being diligent to preserve the unity of
the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Diligent – to be especially conscientious in discharging an obligation
- Unity – a state of oneness or of being in harmony and accord
- Bond – that which brings various entities into a unified relationship, uniting bond
- Peace – harmony in personal relationships

The unity of the Christian life

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is **one** body and **one Spirit**, just as also you were called in **one** hope of your calling; **one Lord**, **one** faith, **one** baptism, **one God** and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

- One...one...one...
 - Emphasis on unity
 - Many, but one
- One body because of the unity of the other items
- Hope – looking forward to something with some reason for confidence respecting fulfillment

**The diversity of the
Christian life
Ephesians 4:7**

But to **each one** of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

- We are one, but “each”
- Grace – exceptional effect produced by generosity
 - Passive “was given”
- Gift – that which is given or transferred freely by one person to another

**The diversity of the
Christian life
Ephesians 4:8**

Therefore it says,
“WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.”

- Psalm 68:18
 - Difference: give vs. receive
- Who are the captives?
 - Enemies
 - Christians
- Christ secured gifts

**The diversity of the
Christian life
Ephesians 4:9-10**

(Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

- Exposition on OT quote
- Earth, not below the earth
- Fill – to make full/fill, to complete a period of time, to bring to completion that which was already begun, to bring to a designed end

The diversity of the Christian life Ephesians 4:11

And He gave some as apostles, **and some** as prophets, **and some** as evangelists, **and some** as pastors **and** teachers,

- Return to discussion of gifts
- Apostle – messenger with extraordinary status, especially of God’s messengers, envoy
- Prophecy – the act, gift, or utterance of interpreting divine will or purpose
- Evangelist – proclaimer of the gospel
- Pastor
 - One who herds sheep
 - One who serves as guardian or leader
- “some” not repeated for teachers

**The diversity of the
Christian life
Ephesians 4:12**

for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

- The reason they were given
- Only use of equipping
- Interpretation
 - KJV: **For** the perfecting of the saints, **for** the work of the ministry, **for** the edifying of the body of Christ:
 - NASB: **for** the equipping of the saints for the work of service, **to** the building up of the body of Christ;
- Building up – of a building, by extension: spiritual strengthening

The diversity of the Christian life

Ephesians 4:13

until we all attain **to** the unity of the faith, **and** of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to** a mature man, **to** the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

- How long is the work to be done?
- No one can be excluded
- Unity again
 - In the faith
 - In the knowledge of the Son of God
- Maturity – man contrasted with boy
- Christlikeness
- Stature can also mean maturity
- Fullness – sum total
 - Measure...fullness

The result of the Christian life

Ephesians 4:14

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

- The result of God's gift of leaders
- Tossed and carried are passive
 - Don't have maturity to be active
 - Only use of "tossed"
- Secure against false doctrine
- Secure against trickery
 - "dice-playing" (with loaded dice)
 - Craftiness – readiness to do anything
 - Scheming – "method"
 - Deceitful – wandering from the path of truth

The result of the Christian life

Ephesians 4:15

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

- What do we do instead
- Speaking the truth – only here and in Gal. 4:16
- Maturity and conformity with Christ in all aspects
- Head – a being of high status, superior rank

The result of the Christian life

Ephesians 4:16

from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- Christ is the head of the body, no human is
- God has organized the structure
- Fitted – to join together to form a coherent entity
- Held – to bring together into a unit
- God has provided for all the needs of the body
- We are built up through love

1 Corinthians 12

- 12:4 Variety...same (Spirit, Lord, God)
- 12:7 Gifts are for the common good
- 12:11 Gifts are according to God's will, not ours
- 12:12 Though many, one body in Christ
- 12:17 We need each other and everyone's gifts
- 12:18 God has placed the members
- 12:25 No division, but care for one another

1 Peter 4:7-11

- 4:7 Live in light of Christ's second coming
- 4:8 Have fervent love for one another
- 4:9 Show hospitality without complaint
- 4:10 Gifts are for serving one another
- 4:11a Be good stewards of the God's gifts
- 4:11b God is to be glorified in the use of gifts

HEBREWS 10:24-25

The forgiven life
Hebrews 10:24

and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

- “consider” also Heb. 3:1
 - Look or think carefully about
- What: one another
- Purpose/goal: rousing to activity
- KJV: let vs consider one another to prouoke
- NIV: let us consider how we may spur one another
- ESV: let us consider how to stir up one another

The forgiven life
Hebrews 10:25

not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

- 10:24 is difficult if we don't meet together
- “forsake” – in a negligent manner, be remiss
- How is this accomplished?
 - As the body of Christ we are meant to be together
 - Exhorting – urge strongly

What does this look like?

- Praying for each other
- Living the Christian life, being an example
- Encouraging others to spiritual activities
- Serving one another
- Bearing each others burdens
- Humility

What the church is not

- A building
- A gathering of like-minded individuals
- A voluntary association of individuals
- A philanthropic group
- An organization
- Moralism
- A commodity

What the church is

- The body of Christ
- An organism
- Composed of those God chose by grace
- Disciples
- Overcomers
- For the glory of God

What is the Purpose of the Church

- To be a united body
- To equip and build up the body of Christ
- To grow into maturity in the likeness of Christ
- To have each part use the gifts God has given
- To encourage believers to love and good deeds
- To care for one another
- To glorify God