

EPHESIANS – Session 6.

The Unity of the Body – Gifts and their Purpose

Read Eph. 4.1-6.

What is the Christian believer called to do? (v.1)

What are 4 ways we are to demonstrate this calling? (v.2)

What are we to make every effort to do? (v.3)

Why are we to live this way? (v.4-6)

Read Eph. 4. verses 7-8 and 11-16.

Note that the word 'grace' here means spiritual gifts or abilities, something which God has given and provided for the Church.

How many of us are given this grace? (v.7) (Cf. I Cor.12. 7 & 11)

Here Paul is thinking particularly of leadership gifts and those that enable the Church to be unified as God's People.

For this purpose what 4 gifts does Paul say God has given? (v.11)

What is the purpose of those gifts? (v.12. Read different versions)

Who should be ministering in the Body of Christ? What, then, is the job of the man we call the 'minister'? (v.12)

What are the 3 goals for the Body of Christ? (v.13)

How does the Body of Christ grow to maturity? (v.15)

What happens when it does? (v.16)

What is and is not the real basis for Christian unity?

Why do we find it hard to 'speak the truth in love'? (v.15)

If we compared our church to a symphony orchestra, what do you think it would sound like?

IF THERE IS TIME:

Jot down the names of those attending our church that you would put under the following headings:

Apostle - (originally meant one of the Twelve and later one called to bring the Good News to new areas and plant churches).

Prophet - One gifted in discerning and proclaiming the word and will of God.

Evangelist - One gifted in presenting the Gospel simply and clearly to those who do not know it and effective in it.

Pastor/teacher - (Note this is one calling, not two). One gifted to care for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of others and to build them up and train them in the service of Christ.