



REVEALED

The Mystery of Christ in Ephesians

Ephesians 4:1-16

July 19th, 2015

AM I CALLED?

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called... – Ephesians 4:1 (ESV)

BIGGER THAN ME (FINDING MEANING IN UNITY)

- Church Changes My Attitude

*...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
– Ephesians 4:2-3 (ESV)*

- Church Establishes My Identity

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. – Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV)

A PLACE FOR ME (FINDING MEANING IN DIVERSITY)

- Church Guides My Purpose

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... – Ephesians 4:7-12 (ESV)

EQUIPPED TO SERVE

- **1 Peter 4:10-11**
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**
- **Romans 12:3-8**

• Church Develops My Maturity

... until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. – Ephesians 4:13-16 (ESV)

MEASURING GROWTH AS GOD'S KIDS

- **Loving Truth – vs. 15**
- **Effective Teamwork – vs. 16**

I Will Live The Mystery by...

- Memorizing **Ephesians 4:1**
- Letting the unity of the Church challenge my independence.
- Letting the diversity of the Church challenge my insecurity.
- Accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

1. What is the first church you ever went to? What were some of the strong things about that church?
2. There are lots of different denominations and church organizations. What are some of the good things about so many different types of churches? What are some of the bad things?
3. What types of behavior damage unity within a local church? Have you ever been part of a church where unity broke down in a significant way? If so, describe your experience.
4. Ephesians 4:11-12 describe positions of church leadership. According to these verses, what is the purpose of church leadership? Who is supposed to be doing the “work of the ministry”?
5. Read the 3 biblical passages under “Equipped to Serve” above. Based on 1Peter 4, does God use you more to speak or to serve? From the lists in 1Corinthians 12 & Romans 12, pinpoint 2 gifts of the Spirit that have been evident in your life.
6. Paul says in 1Corinthians 12:31 that we should “desire gifts.” What spiritual gift would you like to see active in your life? Spend some time praying for each other for these gifts.