

## Heaven on Earth pt. 9 – The Way God Works: Unity

Ephesians 4:4-16

### Message Overview:

Paul continues to develop his teaching on how God works through unity in the church. He reminds us that we are one in so many ways, and yet uniquely gifted and blessed by God to be part of His plan to reflect His image through the church to the world. A church that reflects the heart of God is a church that celebrates diversity while maintaining unity. Let's not settle for uniformity and somehow think that that is spiritual maturity, let's do the hard work to celebrate our diversity and embrace the unique gifts and ministry God has given to us all, so that as verse 16 says... *"the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."*

### Talk It Over:

1. A few years after Jesus' death and resurrection, Caesar Augustus declared himself *"Pontifex Maximus"* or the Chief Priest of Rome. Upon his death, Augustus was declared the Son of God. So simply put, Caesar is Lord. Anything less and anything else was treason against Rome. When Paul says, "there is ONE LORD" (Ephesians 4:4-6), referring to Jesus, it is a creedal coup d'état against Rome. How have you declared Jesus Christ your Lord? How has culture elevated modern-day caesars as Lord?
2. Pastor Lane said in the message that even though God has given each of us a special gift, or special grace, that we need to flip the script and remember that what God does in us and for us is never just for us. How have you been able to use your gifts, your degrees, your career, etc. to minister to others? How does that change your perspective of the gifts God gives to us?
3. Read Ephesians 4:14-15 – Paul says the results of unity combined with the gifts of the spirit is spiritual maturity. Why is sound doctrine so important for believers? How do we make sure that we are grounded in good doctrine so that we aren't tossed back and forth on every wave of doctrine and clever lies?
4. In verse 16, Paul puts a qualifier on the health and growth of the church. What is it? Talk about what a healthy growing church looks like and how we can make sure that we are all doing the part God has for us to play instead of relying on the "professional" Christians (i.e. the Pastors) to make the church healthy.