

Pastor's job is for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.

- Each of us has a role in the church body.
- Paul uses the metaphor of “the body”
- to show how the Spiritual body is to work together.

For example,

Eph 1:22-23

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Eph 2:16

16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Eph 3:6

6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Eph 4:4

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:16

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Why do we need the church body?

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature (maturity) of the fullness of Christ;

Stature is maturity - Used in Luke 19 of Zacchaeus is mentioned.

Used in John 9:21 - Jesus healed a man born blind then his parents were interrogated by the authorities. Their reply, He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.

We are continually maturing in the Lord.

We need the body of Christ.

Cultists prey upon weak people therefore says Paul:

14 that we should no longer be children (infant), tossed to and fro (surging like the sea) and carried about (helpless in the hands of others,
Ref Mk 6:55 - the Ill carried to Jesus)

Verse 14 is a vivid illustration of a vulnerable infant in doctrinal peril:

Spiritual immaturity leads to spiritual malnutrition.

Maturity leads to doctrinal stability.

Eph 14b: carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

People end up in cults

- because they don't know any better.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders

- to watch for "savage wolves" who would come in,
- "not sparing the flock."

Deception stems from the father of lies.

The writer of Hebrews speaking of spiritual immaturity says:

Heb 5:12

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Paul says they shouldn't be spiritually immature,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ –

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Are we loving a brother or sister by not pointing out their sin? No!

Proverbs 27:6

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

A parent corrects his children, the Lord corrects us! Friends should do the same.

When we exercise wisdom,

- we realize that the correction of a friend
- is not necessarily an attack.

If the Lord were to flash your entire life before you

- what would that look like?

In this section starting in verse 17 thru verse 17 of chapter 5

- Paul admonishes the believers to walk in purity.

Eph 4:17-24

The New Man

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility (emptiness, hollowness) of their mind,

Remember what is written in 2 Tim 3:16 that all scripture is given by inspiration of God.

When Paul says, “I testify in the Lord,” he’s really saying,

- this is what the Lord says,

Verse 17 in the NLT reads as follows:

Eph 4:17

17 With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused.

We are not to walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility (emptiness, hollowness, vanity) of their mind,

Don't walk as the Gentiles walk: (2 Pet 3:3) that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, (hopelessly confused)

Solomon said in Ecc 1:14,

14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

He was saying that people's achievements are meaningless

- and do not fully satisfy,

Paul said in:

Eph 2:2

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Eph 4:22

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

The unsaved are blind.

18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Verse 18 is much of what we're seeing today.

2 Cor 4:3-4

3 But even if our gospel is veiled (hidden), it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

No one can say that God did not give them an opportunity

Rom 1:20

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Eph 4:19 who, being past feeling (this is a person that is incapable of feeling shame), have given themselves over to lewdness (insatiable desire to pleasure), to work all uncleanness with greediness.

1 Cor 2:14

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Not feeling the conviction of sin is a dangerous place to be.

- In his letter to the Romans, Paul speaks of a reprobate mind,
- not being able to feel the conviction
- of the Spirit anymore.

Notice in verse 18 that the ungodly person has alienated himself from the life of God.

That was our position before Christ. We too were alienated from Him.

In the case of the Ephesians, they purposely alienated themselves from God. Paul says they do it because of the ignorance that is in them.

20 But you have not so learned Christ, ("that's not what you learned about Christ.")

21 if (since, and it is true) indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Charles Spurgeon once said: You and your sins must separate, or you and your God will never come together.

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

1 Pet 1:13, Therefore gird up the loins of your mind,

In other words, prepare your mind for action.

Romans 12:2 to be transformed by the renewing of the mind.

2 Cor 10:4 bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

We decide whether or not we want to change.

- And when we decide “YES,” I want to change
- then we have to translate that from the mind to the heart.

We are to surrender all to the Lord!

It means you will give all of it to the Lord and allow Him to help you thru it because when I am weak, He is strong!

Paul says in Phil 2:5

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, (we are to think as Christ did)

Eph 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians,

2 Cor 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Eph 4:25-32

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

One of the things the Lord hates according to proverbs 6 is a lying tongue.

A few quotes about lying:

- Stretching the truth won't make it last any longer.
- Austin O'Malley- Those that think it's permissible to tell white lies soon grow colorblind.
- A white lie soon gets tanned from exposure.
- Friedrich Nietzsche - What upsets me is not that you lied to me, but that from now on I can no longer believe you.

- Those who cook up stories usually find themselves in hot water.

Believers are to tell the truth.

There are three things that should mark each believer,

Put off: verse 22 says to put off the old man

Put on : verse 24 put on the new man

Put away: verse 25 put away lying

26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

Have you ever gone to bed angry about something or with someone. Or perhaps you've awakened at night with something on your mind that's bothering you then you can't go back to sleep.

Verses 26 & 27 warn against that. The Greek word for wrath is "Parogismōs." It's a compound word meaning "alongside someone whose mood is so upset that he becomes completely bent out of shape over some issue."

Wrath then becomes a close companion of an individual

- to the point he takes it with him wherever he goes, including bed.

"Devil" in Spanish is "diablo."

The word is derived from two Greek words,

- one is "dia" meaning "through" as in penetrating something.

The second word is "Balos" which means to throw.

- The devil repeatedly throws accusations
- at the mind until he's penetrated the mind with slanderous lies.

Notice in verse 27 the word "place."

This word is derived from the Greek word "topos"

- which is where we get the term topographical map.

The devil is always looking for an entry point.

Eph 4:26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

29 Let no corrupt word (rotten, worthless) proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Paul is saying,

- don't allow any stench to come out of your mouth.

Don't gossip, don't malign others!

Paul lists gossip along with other horrible attitudes and actions in 2 cor 12:20.

2 Cor 12:20

quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior.

When we gossip we grieve the Holy Spirit.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Greek word for grieve is "lupete" which is from the word "lupe"

- which denotes a pain or grief
- experienced between two people
- who deeply love each other.

The word "lupe" is normally used to picture a husband or wife

- that has discovered their partner
- to be unfaithful in their marriage.

Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is a precious relationship. The Lord is deeply in love with us!

When we deliberately do what is wrong,

- we drag the Spirit along with us
- because the Spirit of God dwells in us.

So when we grieve the Holy Spirit by committing spiritual adultery, it hurts Him.

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.