

L105 | Ephesians | "Christ Gave Grace Unto the Body Edifying Itself" | Eph. 4:7-16

I. Intro/Review:

- Unto a perfect man - the goal of the spiritual gifts and the goal of the "unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God"
- Unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ
 - Paul's prayer
 - Christ's activity
 - The spiritual gifts
 - The progress to "the unity of the faith"

II. Preview:

1. No More Children
2. Speaking Truth to Grow Up
3. The Body Edifying Itself in Love

III. Sermon:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
{Ephesians 4:14}

1. No More Children

- **"that we henceforth"**
 1. In view coming in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God
- **"be no more children"** - ability to think, understand, and speak like a man
 1. 1 Cor. 13:10-12 - adult
 2. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 - man of God
- 3. **"tossed to and fro"**
 - The effect of doctrines by the sleight of men (wind)
- 1. **"and carried about with every wind of doctrine"**
 - Heb. 13:9 - "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines."
 - Jde. 1:12 - "...carried about winds..."
 - No roots, no fruit
 - Eph. 3:17 - "rooted and grounded"

2. "by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness,"

- Dice, cards
- 1 Cor. 3:19 - "...He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."
- 2 Cor. 4:2 - "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully..."
- 2 Cor. 11:3 - "as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
 - singleness
- Eph. 2:1-3 - "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"
- Col. 2:7-10 - "rooted and built up...beware, and not after Christ...complete in Him"
 - Philosophy
 - Vain Deceit
 - After Tradition of Men
 - After the Rudiments of the World

3. "whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

- Eph. 6:11 - "stand against the wiles of the devil."
- Looking to deceive - wander, in error, delusion
 - 2 Pet. 2:18 - "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error."
 - 2 Pet. 3:17 - "...being led away with the error of the wicked"
 - Jde. 1:11 - "...ran greedily after the error..."

**But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
{Ephesians 4:15}**

2. Speak Truth to Grow Up

- "But" - adverse - instead of carried about, instead of deception
- "speaking the truth" - instead of speaking error, speaking the truth
 - Overt activity we are to do toward one another
 - Two parties involved in this - 1) speaker, 2) the hearer
 - Things that get in the way -
 1. The Speaker
 1. Lack of the knowledge of the truth to be able to speak it (not because we don't have it)
 2. Ashamed to speak it (Eph. 6)
 3. Inferior to the winds of doctrine (1 Cor. 1-4; Eph. 6)
 4. The lack of a spirit of meekness (Gal. 6) - a judgment they wouldn't want to be judged with
 2. The Hearer
 1. An attitude that the speaker thinks they are "holier than thou" (whether true or not)

2. Ashamed of not knowing what you ought to know
 3. Doubt the authority and power of God's Word
 4. Despising of one teaching, reproving, or correcting
- The need for "in love", "in the Spirit", "in grace"
- **"in love"** - contrast of the intent to "lie in wait to deceive" (intent)
 - Sincerity, integrity - Eph. 6:24, Php. 1:14-18
 - Manner - 2 Tim. 2:24-26; 1 The. 2:7-12; Gal. 6:1-5
 - "in love" - from Jew and Gentile
 - Rom. 3:1-2
 - Deut. 4:5-8
 - **"may grow up"** - verb form of "increase" in v16
 - Not remaining children
 - Truth in love is the planting and watering that God increases
 - 1 Cor. 2 - Paul and Apollos
 - Growth and having the resources that God uses to grow and ministering them
 - **"into Him in all things"** - the goal of growth and God's increase - Christ in you, in all things
 1. The wisdom of the world doesn't grow you up in Christ it conforms you to this world
 2. Eph. 3:16-20 - Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith
 3. Perfecting of the saints, perfect man
 - Growing up into Him in all things - what are the all things?
 - Him in all things - coming soon in Eph. 4:25ff
 4. **"which is the head, even Christ:"**
 - Grow up into Him, His thoughts, His bowels, His heart, His will

**From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
{Ephesians 4:16}**

3. The Body Edifying Itself in Love

- **"From whom"** - from the Head Jesus Christ
- **"the whole body"** - Eph. 4:4 - "one body"; Eph. 3:6 - "same body", Eph. 2:16 - "one body"
 - "whole" - all, (Eph. 3:15 - whole family)
- **"fitly joined together"**
 1. Eph. 2:21 - "in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth"
 2. Christ is fitly joining us together

- **"and compacted"**
 - Put together
 - Col. 2:2 - "that their hearts might be comforted, **being knit together** in love, and unto all..."
 - Col. 2:19 - "...**knit together**..."

- **"by that which every joint supplieth"**
 - Bond and connection
 - Each in the body possessing the truth in love to supply to each other member becomes a joint
 - Eph. 4:1-3
 - Php. 2:1

- **"according to the effectual working in the measure of every part"**
 - The word of God, the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, working in each member of the body toward one another
 - The measure of the gift of Christ, the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, the knowledge of the Son of God
 - Spiritual gifts working in each member for the profit of all - childhood
 - The faith, the knowledge of the Son of God in each member for the profit of all - adulthood
 - All taught of God - Jn. 6:45; Jer. 31:31
 - Num. 11:27-29

- **"maketh increase of the body"**
 1. The knowledge of the Son of God in you supplied toward others joins together, compacts, and makes increase of the body
 2. **"increase"** - (noun) mid-14c., *encresen*, "become greater in size or number" (intransitive); late 14c., "cause to grow, enlarge" (transitive), from Anglo-French *encress-*, Old French *encreiss-*, present participle stem of *encreistre*, from Latin *increscere* "to **increase**, to grow upon, grow over, swell, grow into," from *in-* "in" (from PIE root ***en** "in") + *crescere* "to grow" (from PIE root ***ker-** (2) "to grow"). Modern English restored the Latin spelling 16c. Related: *Increased*; *increasing*.

From <<https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=increase>>

 - "grow up" - (verb) may grow up into Him
 3. **"of the body"**
 - Your supply, your giving makes increase

- **"unto the edifying of itself in love"**
 - Process of getting to this point
 1. God
 2. Christ at the right hand

3. Giving gifts - apostles (1 Cor. 2)
 1. Perfecting of the saints
 2. The work of the ministry
 3. The edifying of the body of Christ
 4. Come in the unity of the faith
 4. The knowledge of the Son of God in each joint supply
- The body is equipped now to edify itself in love
 - Speak the truth in love
 - The knowledge of the Son of God
 - **"edifying"** - building up, the growing
 - **"in love"** - preparation for our predestination
 1. Eph. 1:3-4 - "holy and without blame before Him in love"
 2. Eph. 1:6 - "accepted in the beloved"
 3. Eph. 3:17 - "rooted and grounded in love"
 4. Eph. 4:2 - "forbearing one another in love"
 5. Eph. 4:15 - "speaking the truth in love"
 6. Eph. 4:16 - "the edifying of itself in love"
 7. Eph. 5:2 - "walk in love"

IV. Conclusion:

- What are you learning? - Perfecting of the saints
- What are you ministering? What are you speaking? - the truth in love
- Are you a joint supplying the effectual working of God's Word in you or are you supplying winds of doctrine knowingly or unknowingly deceiving?
- Are you laboring with God to grow up into Christ in all things? Or is His Word not sufficient for you?
- Are you growing the body of Christ or are you hindering its development?
- Are you being edified by others? If not, why do you think that is? Do you offer to others what you discern you should be receiving?
- This is the pattern as a church we are to follow!