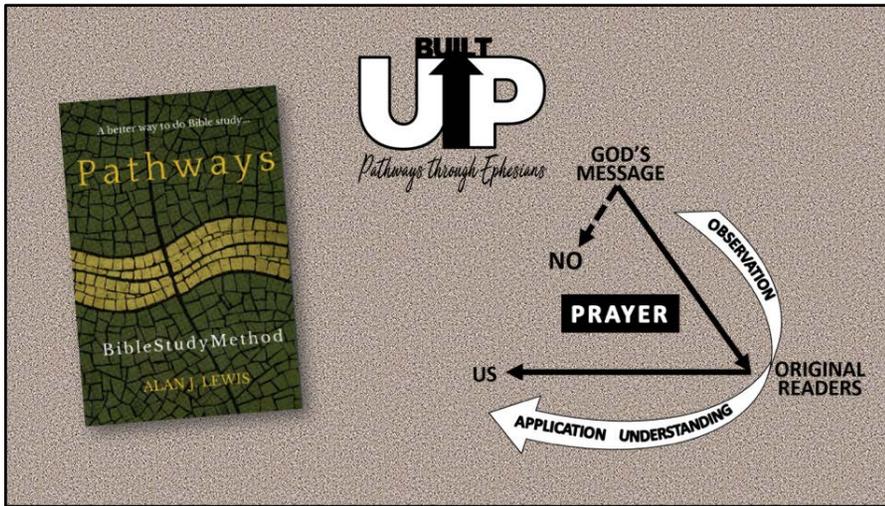


(Theme Slide)



2

Just a word of encouragement . . . don't give up. And if you have, start again.

-- Learning how to study the Bible well is a life-skill of unprecedented impact.

TR: If you have been absorbing the wonderful good news of the first three chapters of Ephesians, you've realized that every true believer has a . . .



3

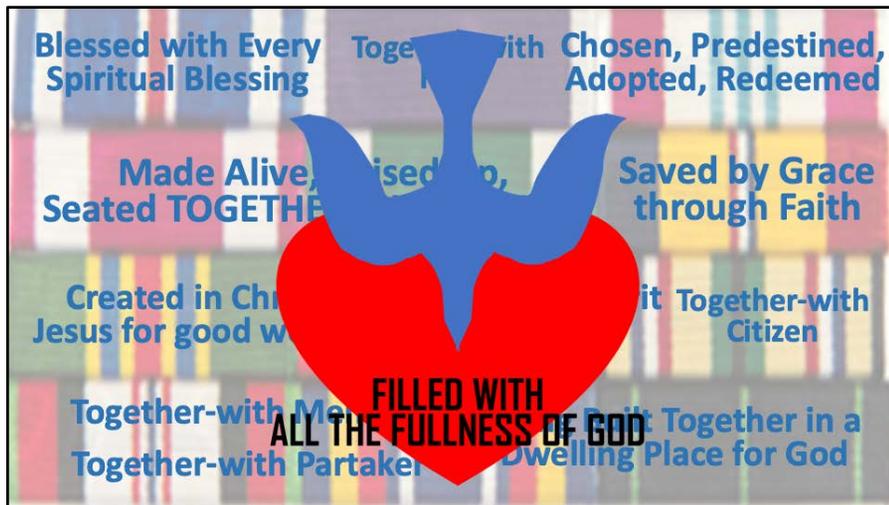
. . . chest full of ribbons.

-- But, unlike the military, these ribbons aren't ones we earned ourselves.

-- Each one of these is because of our union with Jesus Christ . . . because we are IN HIM.

-- In Christ, we have been . . . READ SLIDE

TR: We learned last week that we must pray for ourselves and others that . . .



4

. . . the Holy Spirit would strengthen them in their inner being so that Christ can dwell in their hearts.

-- It is His strengthening that allows us to have eyes to see and to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the unmeasurable love of Jesus Christ.

-- It is through the Spirit's work that we can be filled with all the fullness of God.

TR: To put it in some of the terms we used last week . . .

The Mystery Revealed
(the CURE of the Gospel)



The Mystery Declared
(the CARRIER of Preachers/Teachers)



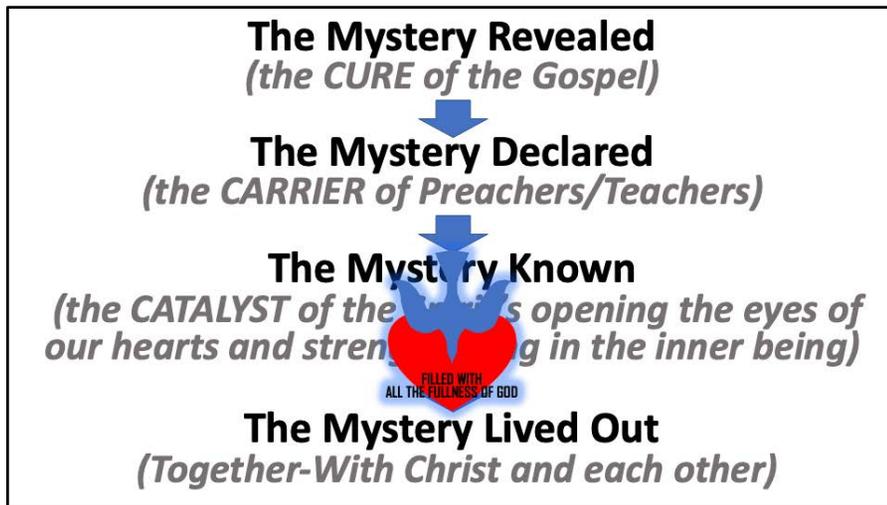
The Mystery Known
(the CATALYST of the Spirit's opening the eyes of our hearts and strengthening in the inner being)



The Mystery Lived Out
(Together-With Christ and each other)

READ SLIDE

TR: It is the Catalyst of the Holy Spirit's eye-opening, strengthening work . . .



... that makes it possible to **KNOW THAT WE KNOW** the **CURE** of the Gospel.

-- It is His work that makes it possible for us to live out the **Mystery**, that which was hidden but now is revealed, **TOGETHER-WITH**.

-- **TOGETHER-WITH** both Jesus and each other, whether we are Jews, Gentiles, or from any tribe, tongue, or nation.

TR: The challenge that we have to be honest about is the seeming ...

The Mystery Revealed-Declared



The Mystery Lived Out

7

**. . . DISCONNECT that seems to happen BETWEEN the Mystery of the Gospel being revealed, first to the apostles and prophets
. . . and then using people like Paul and whoever you heard the news of the Gospel from . . . the ones who declared it . . .
. . . and the living out of that mystery, of TOGETHER-WITH Jesus and our brothers and sisters in Christ.**

TR: We may be tempted to treat this academically, until we realize that not one of us wants to hear from our kids or grandkids, or if you are the first to profess faith in Jesus in your family, your parents and siblings . . . the “face-clenching” accusation of being a . . .

The Mystery Revealed-Declared



The Mystery Lived Out

HYPOCRITE

8

... HYPOCRITE.

-- Those who by faith have received Jesus as Savior have a chest-full of ribbons . . . so how do we live out those statements of our stature?

-- How can we be a success – respected most by those who know us best.

TR: As we transition to the second half of Ephesians, we move into the practical ethics section. It is too simplistic to say that all of 1-3 was what we believe and 4-6 is how we should live . . . there is some truth to the general pattern.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to **walk in a manner worthy of
the calling** to which you have been
called,

ESV

9

Let's turn to Ephesians 4 and look together at the first 16 verses.

-- READ SLIDE (verse 1 only)

-- It has been said that verse 1 is the heading for the rest of the letter.

-- Paul repeats that he is a prisoner for the Lord . . . he's got skin in the game, as some say.

-- He urges the readers to walk in a manner worth of the calling.

TR: Whether we've served in the military or law enforcement, we've probably heard of this charge . . .



**CONDUCT
UNBECOMING**

CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER

- Sometimes it is an actual crime, but it doesn't need to be.
- It can be behavior that is **BENEATH** the level of dignity an officer should have.

TR: In a very real sense, having spent 3 chapters pinning ribbons to our chest, not of our own merit but of Christ Jesus' . . .



. . . Paul now urges us to avoid conduct unbecoming of someone with the rank and status we have.

-- EX: Alexander the Great to a cowardly young soldier as well named "Alexander" . . . change your ways or change your name!

-- He says it positively . . . walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

TR: Using our sermon notes to help us keep on track . . .

... we see the word **WALK**, repeated in the letter a number of times.

-- Live out your dailies in a manner worthy.

TR: Verses 2-3 give us specifics of what a worthy walk looks like.

Ephesians 4:1-3 *page 1080 in handout Bibles*

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to walk in a manner worthy of
the calling to which you have been
called, ²**with all humility and
gentleness, with patience, bearing with
one another in love, ³eager to maintain
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of
peace.**

ESV

13

READ SLIDE (verses 2-3)

TR: There's not a spot in your notes for these details, but don't miss that it is our relationships with each other that set the benchmarks.

1-3 Walk in a manner worthy

**with all humility and gentleness,
with patience,
bearing with one another in love,
eager to maintain the unity of the
Spirit in the bond of peace.**

14

- with all humility =
- and gentleness = cf. Phil. 2 – “willingness to waive one’s rights”
- with patience =
- bear with . . . in love =
- ALL to MAINTAIN the unity that was ATTAINED by God’s grace.

**TR: Sometimes we can grasp things by considering their opposite
. . . what would conduct unbecoming look like?**

Walk in a manner unworthy

with arrogance
and
presumption



with short-fused
agitation

taking
offense
quickly

with harshness
& running
roughshod over others

eager for
our own rights

15

To walk in a manner UNWORTHY of the calling is to walk . . .

READ SLIDE

-- When we think, “Of course I’m right!” “Of course I’m objective.” → we tend to divide the body , , , we don’t maintain the unity of the Spirit.

-- Many of us don’t think we’re like this, but it is critical for us to listen to our brothers and sisters’ input.

-- cf. hearing your voice on a recording (without bone conduction, just air conduction)

TR: Paul then gives us a review of the reason why walking worthy, relationally with each other, is so important.

Ephesians 4:4-6

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, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

ESV

16

In verses 4-6, the apostle gives us a seven-fold statement about this **UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.**

-- READ SLIDE

-- [one body] – the one body of Christ, the one new man made up of all believers

-- [one Spirit] – the eye-opening and heart-empowering work that ANY and ALL of us can experience is the work of the One Spirit

-- [one hope] – chapter 1's prayer talked about the hope of our calling . . . an eternal hope that lives out being chosen, predestined, adopted

-- [one Lord] – the Lord is Jesus . . . it is in Him and under Him that all things will be unified

-- [one faith] – there are not many ways to be right with God, not a multiple choice of how we can experience the filling of God in our lives

-- [one baptism] – not separating Spirit and water baptism . . . we are identified as members of the one body

-- [one God} – the ultimate unity is the Tri-unity . . . Spirit, Lord, God the Father . . . one God.

TR: We are to walk worthy of the incredible ONE-NESS . . . with humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another . . .

1-3 **Walk** in a manner worthy
4-6 **(Because)** there is one body

MAINTAIN THE UNITY

17

... READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 7 then begins with the word “BUT”, yet it is still part of the reason we are to walk worthy.

Ephesians 4:7-8

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

ESV

18

In contrast to the unity, the oneness, there is also at the same time a great diversity in the body of Christ.

-- READ SLIDE

-- Paul may use the word GRACE instead of GIFTS because of the letter's emphasis on grace . . .

-- . . . saved by grace, revealed by grace, made a minister by grace.

-- Quoting Psalm 68 in a way that has led commentators to spend many pages here, Paul seems to be looking at the Psalm as speaking of God's victory as King on Mount Zion . . . receiving gifts (as the OT passage says) and giving gifts (as Paul's quote says).

TR: This is further expounded . . .

Ephesians 4:9-10

(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

ESV

19

READ SLIDE

- Descended is probably not referring to hell but to the earth in the incarnation.
- The reference to the ascension emphasized Christ's victory . . . already alluded to several times in this letter.

TR: Why should we walk in a manner worthy?

1-3 **Walk** in a manner worthy
4-6 **(Because)** there is one body
7-10 **But** there are diverse graces

20

READ SLIDE

- The church, both universal and local, which Paul clearly has in mind . . . is the original **UNIVERSITY**.
- Our culture today is aching to embrace **DIVERSITY** . . . but without a **UNITY** it always leads to **UNBECOMING BEHAVIOR**.

TR: Christ gave various gifts, specifically . . .

Ephesians 4:11-12

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

ESV

21

READ SLIDE (just verse 11)

- [apostles]
- [prophets]
- [evangelists]
- [THE shepherds and teachers] – maybe one or two different offices/functions
- All pastors teach . . . but not all teachers pastor (lead/oversight)

TR: These gifts have what in common?

- 1-3 **Walk** in a manner worthy
- 4-6 **(Because)** there is one body
- 7-10 **But** there are diverse graces
- 11 **(Specifically)** speaking gifts were given

22

They are all speaking gifts.

-- Cf. Scott Landstra's work in prep for India – speaking and serving gifts.

TR: Why were these specific gifts/ministries given?

Ephesians 4:11-12

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,**

ESV

23

Verse 12 answers us . . . READ SLIDE (verse 12)

TR: In our notes we capture . . .

- 1-3 **Walk** in a manner worthy
- 4-6 **(Because)** there is one body
- 7-10 **But** there are diverse graces
- 11 **(Specifically)** speaking gifts were given
- 12-13 **so that** the saints can be equipped,
to the end of building up the body

24

that . . . READ SLIDE (saints equipped → work of ministry → building up body of Christ

TR: To what end does this building up have . . .

Ephesians 4:13

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**

ESV

25

READ SLIDE

-- note that Paul includes himself . . . WE ALL

**TR: Until we ALL attain these ultimate standards . . . which won't
perfectly be until Jesus returns**

- 1-3 Walk in a manner worthy
 4-6 *(Because)* there is one body
 7-10 But there are diverse graces
 11 *(Specifically)* speaking gifts were given
 12-13 so that the saints can be equipped,
 to the end of **building up the body**

**BUILT UP BODY
 = ALL ATTAIN** **UNITY
 MATURITY
 STATURE OF CHRIST**

A built-up body is one where ALL attain these . . .

-- **Unity of the faith and the knowledge of Jesus . . . objective understanding of Who He is and that all things will be unified in Him.**

-- **Maturity as adults . . . becoming complete. Note it is singular “man” versus plural “children” – O’Brien thinks this addresses our tendency to individualism.**

-- **Growing up to the full stature of Jesus . . . Jesus is the fullness that fills all in all . . . and it is with His fullness that we seek to be filled . . . all of us.**

TR: If the key application of verses 1-6 was MAINTAIN THE UNITY

. . .

1-3 Walk in a manner worthy
4-6 *(Because)* there is one body
7-10 But there are diverse graces
11 *(Specifically)* speaking gifts were given
12-13 so that the saints can be equipped,
to the end of **building up the body**

BUILD UP BY DIVERSITY

27

... the key application for 7-13 is **BUILD UP BY DIVERSITY**.

TR: I always imagine the marks on the door jam or now on ...



the big ruler hung on the wall.

-- Kids are great . . . but babies that never leave the nursery aren't healthy.

-- But even this picture denotes an individualism . . . in this passage we are told to build up the body, not merely to be built up ourselves.

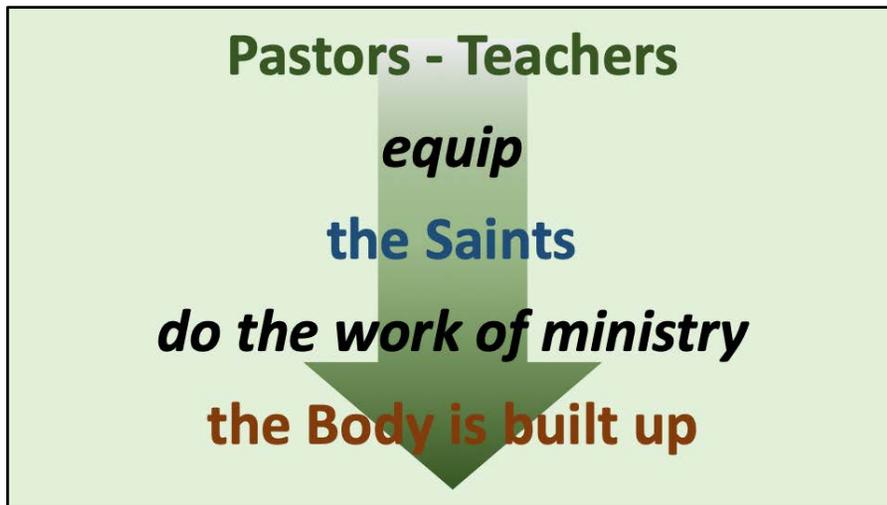
TR: We don't understand this passage until we realize . . .

**Our seeking to be
THE BEST ME
is so that we can be built up as
THE BEST US.**

READ SLIDE

-- This only happens through the Spirit's empowering.

TR: The thought-flow runs like this . . .



30

Review Slide

TR: Verses 14 and following then give us more clarity what will happen if we MAINTAIN UNITY and BUILD UP BY DIVERSITY . . .If the ministers equip the saints, and the saints do the work of ministry, and the body is built up, then . . .

Ephesians 4:14

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.

ESV

31

. . . the result will be . . . READ SLIDE

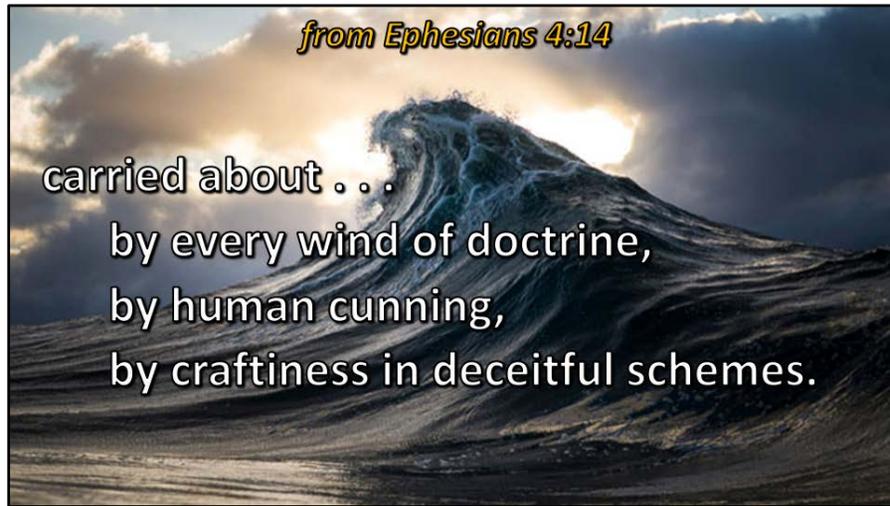
TR: The imagery is horrifying . . .

1-3 **Walk** in a manner worthy
4-6 **(Because)** there is one body
7-10 **But** there are diverse graces
11 **(Specifically)** speaking gifts were given
12-13 **so that** the saints can be equipped,
to the end of building up the body
14 **(specifically) so that** we will no
longer be infants tossed about

32

... drowning babies.

TR: what tosses these immature children around like a rudderless boat in a squall?



33

They are carried, tossed about by . . . READ SLIDE

-- False teaching . . . especially “fresh wind” of “new and improved”

-- Human cunning . . . false teachers intentionally deceiving

-- craftiness in schemes . . . hints at the devil . . . chapter 6 talks about his schemes. Elsewhere Paul says we are not ignorant of his schemes when it comes to fostering bitterness and unforgiveness.

TR: As opposed to these dangerous downdrafts that can drown the babies . . .

Ephesians 4:14-15

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.

**¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we
are to grow up in every way into him
who is the head, into Christ,**

ESV

34

. . . verse 15 tells us . . . READ SLIDE (verse 15)

- The truth is in opposition to the winds of false doctrine**
- in love is in contrast to the cunning and craftiness meant to mislead and manipulate.**

TR: Following the thought-flow . . .

1-3 **Walk** in a manner worthy
4-6 **(Because)** there is one body
7-10 **But** there are diverse graces
11 **(Specifically)** speaking gifts were given
12-13 **so that** the saints can be equipped,
to the end of building up the body
14 **(specifically) so that** we will no
longer be infants tossed about
15 **rather,** speaking the truth in
love we grow up

35

READ SLIDE

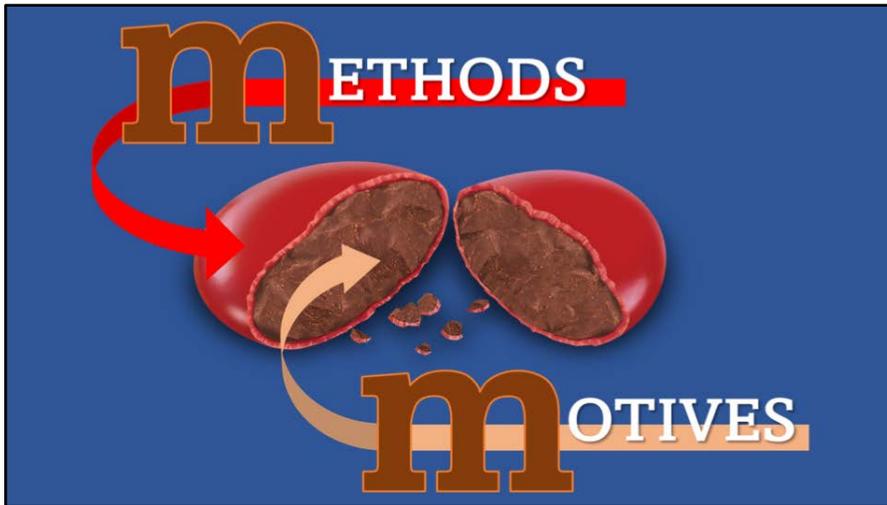
TR: What a powerful . . .

- 1-3 **Walk** in a manner worthy
- 4-6 **(Because)** there is one body
- 7-10 **But** there are diverse graces
- 11 **(Specifically)** speaking gifts were given
- 12-13 **so that** the saints can be equipped,
to the end of building up the body
- 14 **⊖ (specifically) so that** we will no
longer be infants tossed about
- 15 **⊕ rather,** speaking the truth in
love we grow up

36

. . . negative and positive picture . . . drowning babies or mature men and women who are part of the ONE NEW MAN of the Church.

TR: Conduct becoming a TOGETHER-WITH member, heir, partaker, citizen of the Kingdom includes . . .



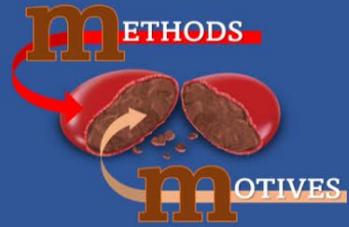
37

. . . speaking the truth in love.

-- I have often used the illustration of M&M candies.

TR: How do we speak the truth in love?

**SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR METHODS
(WHAT WE CAN JUDGE)**



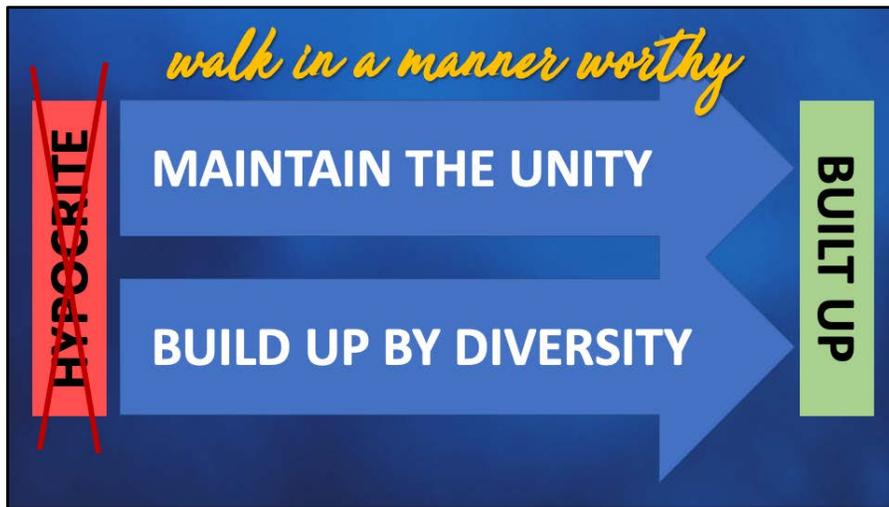
**COMMUNICATE LOVE ABOUT THEIR MOTIVES
(WHAT ONLY GOD CAN JUDGE)**

38

READ SLIDE

- To do this will require walking with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**
- The arrogance of a short-fuse assumes we do really know their motives.**
- Instead of gentleness, we run roughshod over others.**
- Remember, how we hear ourselves and others hear us . . . we may not have meant to but . . .**
- We can't imagine that we'll never have conflict . . . why would we need to bear with one another in love if everything was smooth sailing all the time?**

TR: Think through the thought-flow again.



39

READ SLIDE

TR: Finally, verse 16 kind of gives us a summary of this section . . .

Ephesians 4:16

. . . into Christ, ¹⁶from 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.

ESV

40

READ SLIDE

- The focus of unity of one body is pointed to by the phrase “the whole body” and the singular “body . . . that builds itself up”
- The emphasis on our diversity is captured by “every joint” “each part”

TR: Paul wants to review for us . . .

- 1-3 **Walk** in a manner worthy
- 4-6 **(Because)** there is one body
- 7-10 **But** there are diverse graces
- 11 **(Specifically)** speaking gifts were given
- 12-13 **so that** the saints can be equipped,
to the end of building up the body
- 14 **⊖** **(specifically) so that** we will no
longer be infants tossed about
- 15 **⊕** **rather,** speaking the truth in
love we grow up
- 16 **(Review)** The one body grows and builds itself up
when each part does its work in love

41

READ SLIDE

-- What is built up?

-- A huge deception that has been foisted on us by the evil one and our culture is that we are individuals are built up.

TR: We tend to see the church like a football team with the philosophy of . . .



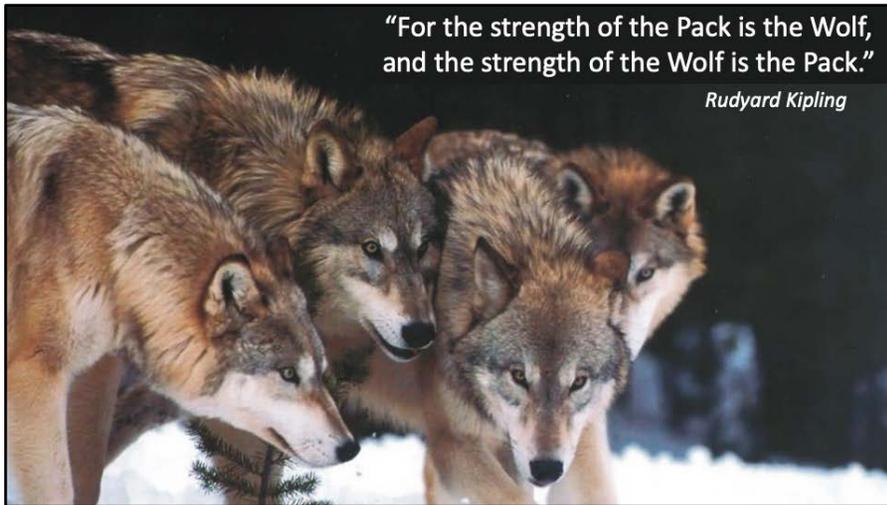
42

READ SLIDE

- If someone is hurt, then replace them.**
- The team's name matters, not the individuals on the team.**
- But is that what God gave Paul to share with us?**

- Wouldn't that kind of thinking lead to a consumerism of church? "I'm not getting fed, challenged, comforted, loved, etc . . . so I'm out."**
- This kind of thinking leads to "They'll never miss me."
"Someone else will step up and fill the void." "It's someone else's turn."**

TR: Perhaps a better image would be . . .



43

. . . captured in Kipling's statement about the individual wolf and the pack . . . READ SLIDE

-- The strength of the body of Christ is her members . . . but the strength of her members is the body.

TR: But let's not forget that God Himself gives us the imagery we really need . . .

From him the whole body,
joined and held together
by every supporting ligament,
grows and builds itself up
in love,
as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16 NIV

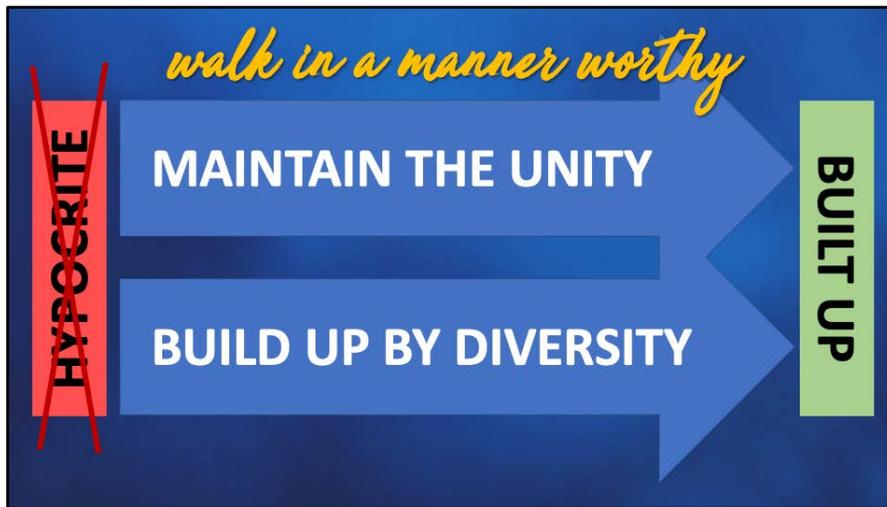


44

. . . of the body.

-- As the NIV translates it . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Taking this all home and avoiding the dreaded label of “hypocrite” involves a couple of critical action steps.



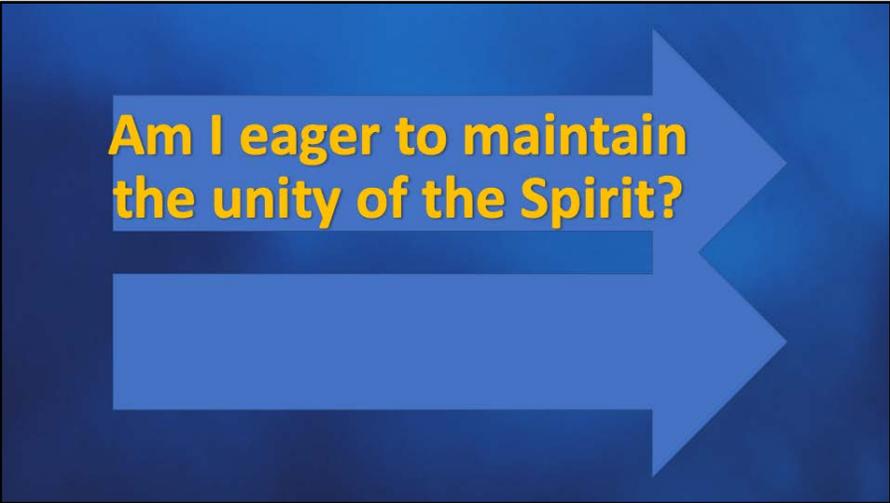
45

To not be or become a hypocrite, we must walk in a manner worthy of our calling.

-- To do that, we need to be part of a body that is BUILT^UP . . .

-- . . . because her members MAINTAIN THE UNITY and BUILD UP THE BODY BY THE DIVERSITY OF THEIR GIFTS

TR: Two questions we need to ask ourselves . . .

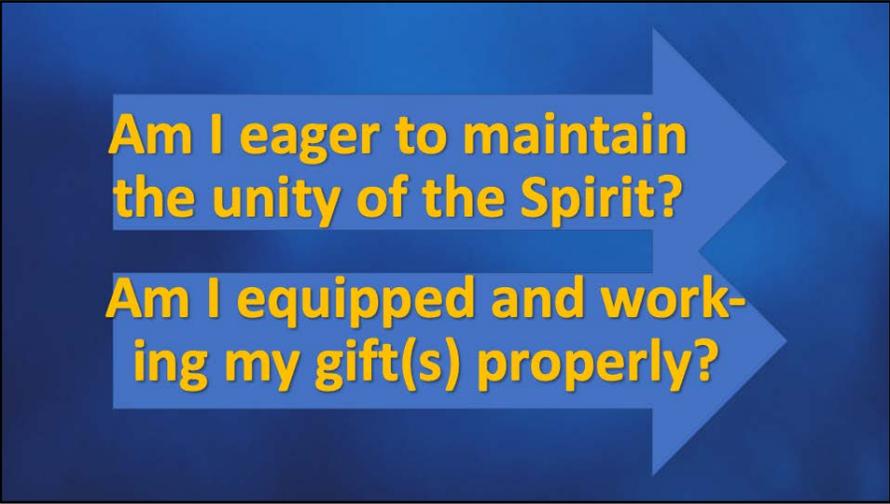


**Am I eager to maintain
the unity of the Spirit?**

46

READ SLIDE

TR: The second question, coming out of the diversity section of our passage, is . . .



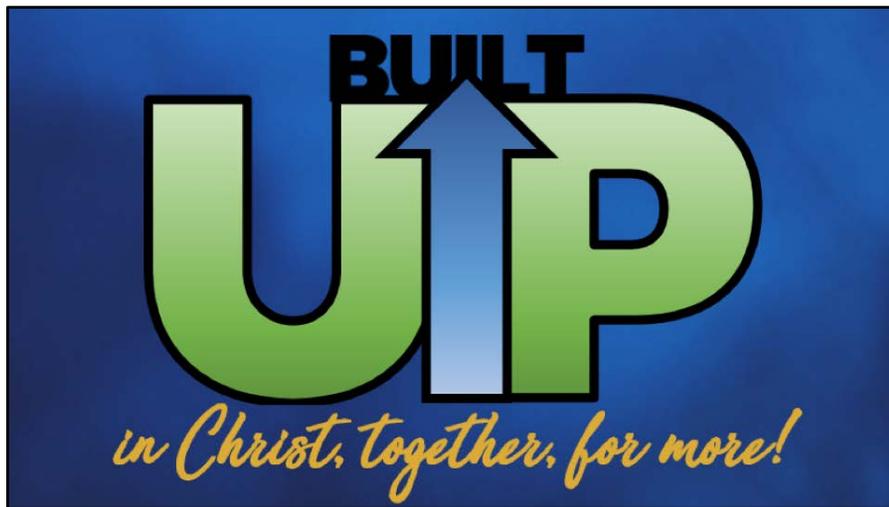
**Am I eager to maintain
the unity of the Spirit?**

**Am I equipped and work-
ing my gift(s) properly?**

47

READ SLIDE

TR: Our 3-year vision is summarized by this graphic . . .



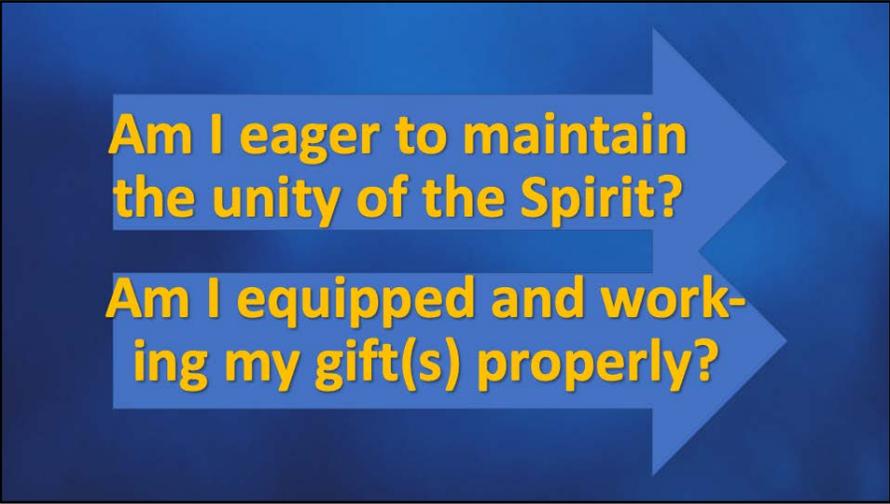
48

READ SLIDE

- When we first look at this it seems like “in Christ” is us individually . . .
- . . . “together” is us as a body . . .
- . . . and the “for more” is looking out into our communities of folks who don’t know Christ yet.

- But today’s text makes clear that it is the body that is built up . . . and that “in Christ, together, for more” really can’t be separated.

- TR: For us not to be labeled hypocrites . . . we need to be an active part of a body that is being built up . . .



**Am I eager to maintain
the unity of the Spirit?**

**Am I equipped and work-
ing my gift(s) properly?**

49

**. . . because we are eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit . . .
-- AND because we want to be equipped and deployed to do the
work of ministry.**

**-- The long and short of it is this: This body cannot be built[^]UP as
God intends if you and I won't answer these questions with a
resounding YES!**

**-- Anything less than YES, LORD is behavior unbecoming of a
redeemed saint whose chest is full of ribbons won for them by
Jesus Christ.**