



## ONE - A Study of Ephesians

*Sermon: The Promise of Maturity (Eph. 4:7-16)*

The Priority of Unity ~ EPH 4:1-6

The Power of Purity ~ EPH 4:17-32

**Summary:** Jesus descended to earth. For God so loved the world that he sent his only son that whoever would believe in him would not perish but would have eternal life (JOH3:16). Jesus, after providing the way of escape from sin and death by giving His life willingly on the cross, ascended to heaven. Jesus has given us gifts to us to glorify Himself. When we use our gifts we grow in maturity and build the church so that Jesus might fill the entire universe with Himself (EPH4:10). Our giftedness is for our maturity and the equipping of the members of the church (and the Kingdom) for the work of ministry so that the church can be healthy and built up and that Jesus will fill the entire universe with Himself! This is another way of understanding the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. Every person on earth must hear the good news of Jesus and then the end will come! Use your gifting to glorify the Lord Jesus and fill the universe with Him!!! The distribution of gifts to us from Jesus and their effective use, fulfills the Promise of Maturity!

### **Ephesians 4:7-16 NLT**

**7** However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. **8** That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people." **9** Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. **10** And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. **11** Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **12** Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. **13** This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. **14** Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of

new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. **15** Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. **16** He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

- I. When we use our gifts we become mature in our faith, **More and More Like Christ**, personally and in the church. EPH 4:7-10, 15, 16

Fill All Things ~ Fill The Universe

Jesus came to earth to give us life and leave us with gifts. Gifts that would help us glorify him and lead others to him. He descended to the earth and those who believe in him are no longer captives of sin; set free and gifted to serve. This process is a maturing process. One of growing up individually and eventually corporately.

- II. **Gift Receiving** - Jesus descended to give gifts. He ascended so that we would use our gifts and he would fill the universe with himself! EPH 4:11

- III. **Gift Responsibility** - These gifts are to be used to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church! EPH 4:12

- IV. **Gift Results** - The continual effective use of the gifts in a church lead to health, growth and maturity in Christ. EPH 4:13-16

- A. Maturity in Christ - 4:13
- B. Solid Faith - 4:14
- C. Speaking Truth - 4:15
- D. Strong Body - 4:16

## Life Application Questions

1. What is the best gift you have ever received? Do you still use that gift? What is its purpose?
2. Of the gifts that the Lord has given to His children, what gift have you received? Are you using your gift? How? Where? When?
3. Text "gifts" to 228-265-5020 to take a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Click on the TEAM MNISTRY Gifted to Serve logo to begin!
4. God positions every member in the church with a gift to be used to build up the church so Jesus can fill the universe with himself! Every gift is useful to this purpose. The list in Ephesians is not exhaustive but indicates the priority gifts. What giftedness to you have (all gifts come from the Lord) do you have that could be helpful but are not on the list in Ephesians 4:11?
5. What is your maturity level in becoming more and more like Christ? Are you leading others to maturity? Do you need someone to lead you to higher levels of faithful maturity?
6. Who is leading you? Who are you leading?
7. What next steps can you take to become more mature? To lead others to become more mature?