

I. Intro

A. Read: **Eph. 4:7-16**

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 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 of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 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. (Eph. 4:7-16)

B. Recap

1. **Part 1**: God Has Blessed Us With Every Spiritual Blessing (v.3)
 - a. Chosen before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless.
 - b. Predestined us to adoption as son and daughters
 - c. Accepted us in the beloved
2. **Pt. 2**: Now that you are part of the family: Intercession
 - a. Spirit of Wisdom & Revelation (**Eph. 1:17**)
 - i. Derived from the Knowledge of God
 - ii. Eyes of Our Understanding Being Enlightened (**Eph. 1:18**)

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- b. To Know the Hope of His Calling (**v. 18b**)
 - c. To Know the Riches of the Glory of His Inheritance in the Saints.
 - d. To Know the Exceeding Greatness of His power toward those who believe. (**Eph. 1:19a**)
 - i. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is toward us. (**Eph. 1:19b**)
3. **Part 3:** We who have been saved can chalk it up to nothing but grace. (**Eph. 2:8**)
- a. It is the free gift of God. (**Eph. 2:9**)
 - i. Not of works, lest we begin to boast.
 - b. We are the workmanship of God; specially created and crafted for good works. (**Eph. 2:10**)

C. Chapter 2-3 Summary

- 1. Remember that you (Gentiles) were strangers of the promise, having no hope and without God. (**Eph. 2:11-12**)
 - a. You who were once far have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

*¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (**Eph. 2:14-16**)*

- b. Jesus is our very peace. (**v.14**)
 - c. With His blood He broke down the wall that separated Jew and Gentile, with one overwhelming goal: Create in Himself **one new man** (**v. 15**)
 - i. Reconcile both Jews and Gentiles into one body through the cross. (**v. 16**)
- 2. **Mystery is out:** God ordained that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs with Jews and partakers of the promise through the gospel. (**Eph. 3:3-6**)

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3. Paul Began to Pray Based on the Revelation of that Mystery (**Eph. 3:14-21**)
- a. According to the riches of His glory, strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man. (**Eph. 3:16**)
 - b. Being rooted and grounded in love, comprehend with all the saints: width... length... depth... height. (**Eph. 3:17-18**)
 - c. To know the love of Christ which goes far beyond knowledge. (**Eph. 3:19**)
 - d. That you'd be filled with the fulness of God.

II. The Beseeching (Exhortation)

*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (**Eph. 4:1-2**)*

A. Walk Worthy of the Calling (**Eph. 4:1-2**)

- 1. Lowliness (**Eph. 4:2a**)
 - a. Deep sense of smallness, low opinion of self
- 2. Gentleness - also translated "meekness" (**4:2b**)
 - a. Mildness of disposition
 - b. Strength under control
- 3. Longsuffering: bearing with one another in love (**Eph. 4:c**)
 - a. Scripture interprets scripture (in the same verse)

B. Walk With One Endeavor (**Eph. 4:3**)

³*Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (**Eph. 4:3**)*

- 1. To Keep the Unity of Spirit, bonded by peace.
 - a. Peace: Absence of rage, competition and havoc.
 - i. Abundance of safety, security, harmony and direction.

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2. Unity... signifies singleness and wholeness. (**Eph. 4:4-6**)

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

C. Walk in the Gifts You've Been Given (**Eph. 4:7-8**)

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. (**Eph. 4:7**)

1. Grace (charis #5485): to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior, to have pity on another, to show unmerited favor toward another, that which produces joy and delight, God's inexhaustible resource that supplies our desperate need.
 - a. Out of the grace of God, comes the gifts of Holy Spirit.
 - i. Spiritual gifts are the divine inheritance of every blood-bought believer
 - b. Jesus wiped out every accusation that was contrary to us and nailed those to the cross.
 - i. Disarmed every principality and power and made an open spectacle of them... triumphing over them.

⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Eph. 4:8)

- c. As Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, Christ, our Conquering King, paraded all of His conquests.
 - i. Publicly gave gifts to men.
- d. Every believer has been granted a bundle of grace (with gifts sprouting out of it).
- e. It's His doing: Not human talent, or hard work.

D. Walk In Fellowship That Produces Results (**Eph. 4:11-14**)

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1. Christ was so concerned about development of individual gifts in the church that He gave out the offices of the church to facilitate the growth of the gifts.

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (Eph. 4:11)

- a. Jesus Himself gave these offices to the church:
 - i. Apostle (sent out ones).
 - ii. Prophet (one who speaks forth).
 - iii. Evangelist (one who declarers of good tidings of the gospel)
 - iv. Pastors (ones who shepherd the flock)
 - v. Teachers (those who instruct and disciple on large basis)
2. These offices have been given as gifts to the entire church with great motive.

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (Eph. 4:11-12)

- a. To equip all the saints so that they could effectively do the work of the ministry. (v. 12a)
 - i. To edify (build up and strengthen) the entire body of Christ. (v. 12b)

3. The End Goal

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 of the fullness of Christ; (Eph. 4:13)

- a. Unified Faith and Knowledge of the Son

¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (Eph. 4:14)

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- b. A Unified strength, a unified reliance, a unified resilience that's built on the widespread orthodoxy of the revelation of God.
 - i. That the entire body would grow together in the grace of God.

III. Conclusion

A. The Body grows (together) by speaking truth to one another (in love).

¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ (Eph. 4:15)

- 1. Not just facts. Not just information.
 - a. God has ordained that we grow collectively when we actually have conversations that involve hearing, expressing, confessing, exhorting... the gospel.
 - b. This type of intimate exchange is bathed in love and causes unprecedented growth.
- 2. The Body collectively grows up together 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. (Eph. 4:16)

- 3. It's to Him (Christ) that the whole body is joined to.
 - 4. Every member of the body is attached as a joint that supplies power to other joints.
 - a. Effective working (*energeia*): *in the New Testament this word is only used for super-human power.*
- B. As we're knit together, He (Jesus) effects growth in the Body by the Body.
- 1. He supplies his Body with the "energeia" to edify itself (in love).