

THE COMMUNITY WE NURTURE

Ephesians 4.1-16

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11 February 2024

Introduction

1. Keep the unity (Eph 4.1-6)

- a) Eph 1-3: blessed with every spiritual blessing; Eph 4-6: Implications of such blessings: live worthily.
- b) Eph 4.3: make every effort to keep the unity! Sevenfold oneness (4.4-6).
- c) Be completely humble and gentle (v.4.2a)
- d) Be patient, bearing with one another in love (v.4.2b)

2. Serve till maturity (Eph 4.7-16)

- a) God gives us spiritual gifts and equippers (4.7-12a)
 - o Spiritual gifts for the common good of the church (1 Cor 12.9, 11)
 - o Spiritual gifts listed in other parts of the New Testament (cf. Rom 12.3-8; 1 Cor 12-14, 1 Peter 4.10-11)
 - o Equipping gifts (vv. 11-12): Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors-teachers

- b) God calls us to serve unto mature (4.12b-16)
 - (1) we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and (2) become mature, (3) attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (cf. Eph 3.19).
 - Evidence of maturity:
 1. Anchored in the faith
 2. Speaking the truth in love to one another
 3. Interdependent on each other

Conclusion & Response

- Do you make every effort to keep the unity?
- Do we serve till we all grow in maturity-exhibiting evidence of maturity?
- Continue to nurture our community this Lent.