

Family Worship Guide

Sunday, July 17, 2016

Ephesians 4:1-16

“Being Equipped in Christ”

¹ Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also 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 over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men.” ⁹ (Now this *expression*, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

Getting Started

- What is our favorite team sport? Discuss the application of the church functioning as a team?

Going Deeper

- What is God’s purpose in giving gifts to His people? Why is it important that each part of “the body” does its work?
- According to this passage, what’s the problem with trying to live the Christian life apart from the church? In what ways do you need others?

Bringing it Home

- Are you living up to the “calling with which you have been called” in your workplace? In your home? In your relationships? Why or why not?
- Are you more likely to “speak the truth” or “in love” try to keep the peace at any price? To achieve a balance, what do you need to learn?¹

¹ Questions taken from *Serendipity Bible for Groups*, 4th Ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 1627–1628.