



## **Singing Your Song Ephesians 4:1-16**

After fifty years in which I rarely noticed birdsong, Sue has taught me to appreciate the birds that live in our neighborhood. This morning as I sit reading Paul's description of the church in Ephesians 4, two birds are singing. One is a cardinal that often visits our yard; the other is a yellow bird that I have never seen.

These two birds are singing at the top of their lungs. Neither of them seems to be bothered that the other bird is singing a different tune. Neither bird holds back out of fear that perhaps their song is inferior to the song of their neighbor. The birds sing with no thought of competition or self-consciousness. They simply enjoy the privilege of singing. I think these birds may live out Ephesians 4 better than I do.

Paul describes the church as a body made up of different gifts and callings. Paul challenges us to sing wholeheartedly the song God has given us. Some sing the song of a senior pastor – preaching and guiding the church. Some sing as worship leaders, music directors, pianists, organists, or choir members. Some sing as pray-ers interceding for the ministry of the church. Some sing the song of a janitor keeping the sanctuary attractive. Some sing as a Sunday school teacher, a Bible study leader, a small group leader. Some songs are heard far and wide; some songs go unnoticed. Some songs receive applause; some songs get little response.

Everyone has a different role to play, but Paul teaches that every part is vital in the body Jesus created the church to be. What will happen when each member plays his or her God-given role in the body? *"...when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love"* (Eph 4:16).

To continue the musical imagery, the church is an orchestra in which every instrument is essential. I used to play the viola. The viola never gets a solo (with good reason, in my case!) But the deeper tones of the viola are a beautiful counterpoint to the high pitches of the violin.

As you think about your role in the church, don't be jealous of another person's assigned song. Don't envy another instrument in the orchestra. Instead, rejoice in the song God has given you and sing your song to the best of your ability. Whatever place you have been assigned, celebrate the privilege of being a part of God's cosmic orchestra!