

Ephesians
Week Thirteen
Healthy Unity through Aligned Diversity
Ephesians 4:7-16
Pastor Steve Treichler
April 10th, 2022 (8:30 and 10:30am), FB Live (10am)
For His Glory and our joy!

Passage:

Ephesians 4:7-16

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” ⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Message Notes:

Introduction – *Why is everyone acting so weird?”*

Today’s Message:

Healthy Unity through Aligned Diversity

Ephesians 4:7-16

The Big Idea – **We are gifted differently for unity**

Ephesians 4:7

Ephesians 4:1-6

The Old Testament Quote

Ephesians 4:8

Quote from Psalm 68:18

The Old Testament Quote Explained

Ephesians 4:9-10

Philippians 2:5-11

Gifts were given

Ephesians 4:7, 8

The spoils of this war

Ephesians 4:11

APOSTLES

PROPHETS

EVANGELISTS

SHEPHERDS

TEACHERS

Equipping for Service

Ephesians 4:12a

1 Corinthians 12:7

For the Purpose of maturity and unity

Ephesians 4:12b-13

What happens if we don't do this?

Ephesians 4:14

How we do this TOGETHER!

Ephesians 4:15-16

Church Hurt

1. Church Hurt is real
2. Going to happen
3. Most likely, will happen because of well-intentioned people

The “dark side” of each of the gifts given

Gospel Application: *Will you use your gifts here at Hope for the building up of the church, AND also appreciate those whose gifts are different?*

Scripture Passages used (New International Version)

Ephesians 4:1-6

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Corinthians 12:7

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Quotes:

The pandemic loosened ties between people: Kids stopped going to school; their parents stopped going to work; parishioners stopped going to church; people stopped gathering, in general. Sociologists think all of this isolation shifted the way we behave. “We’re more likely to break rules when our bonds to society are weakened,” Robert Sampson, a Harvard sociologist who studies social disorder, told me. “When we become untethered, we tend to prioritize our own private interests over those of others or the public.” The turn-of-the-20th-century scholar Émile Durkheim called this state anomie, or a lack of social norms that leads to lawlessness. “We are moral beings to the extent that we are social beings,” Durkheim wrote. In the past two years, we have stopped being social, and in many cases we have stopped being moral, too.
~ Olga Khazan, *Why People Are Acting So Weird*, The Atlantic, March 30, 2022

The psalm as a whole, or at least this section of it, is, as Calvin called it, an *epinikion*, a victory ode. One may picture a military leader returning to Jerusalem at the head of his followers, after routing an enemy army and taking many prisoners. The victorious procession, with the captives in its train, makes its way up to the temple mount, preceded by the sacred ark, which symbolizes the invisible presence of the God of Israel. To him a sacrifice of thanksgiving will be offered when the procession reaches the temple precincts, and the tribute received by the victor from the vanquished foe will be dedicated to him.

~ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984), 341.

In the Old Testament the idea of ascending was linked to two activities. First, it described drawing near to the presence of God. The Tabernacle was set on a hill and people went up to it. Later, the Temple was built on a mountain in Jerusalem and there is a section in the Book of Psalms, called the Psalms of Ascent (120–134), which describe the worshippers’ approach to the Temple at the festival periods of Israel. So Jesus, when he ascended, entered God’s presence. Secondly, ‘ascending’ was connected to the enthronement after victory, when the spoils of battle would be brought up to God’s house and captives from the battle would be led through the city. This reference to captives is not a description of Satan but to Christ’s people whom Christ defeated in the sense of destroying their sins and setting them free. He presented the train, comprising his people, to the Father.

~ R. C. Sproul, *The Purpose of God: Ephesians* (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 1994), 101–102.

APOSTLES extend the gospel. As the “sent ones,” they ensure that the faith is transmitted from one context to another and from one generation to the next. They are always thinking about the future, bridging barriers, establishing the church in new contexts, developing leaders, networking trans-locally. Yes, if you focus solely on initiating new ideas and rapid expansion, you can leave people and organizations wounded. The shepherding and teaching functions are needed to ensure people are cared for rather than simply used.

PROPHETS know God's will. They are particularly attuned to God and his truth for today. They bring correction and challenge the dominant assumptions we inherit from the culture. They

insist that the community obey what God has commanded. They question the status quo. Without the other types of leaders in place, prophets can become belligerent activists or, paradoxically, disengage from the imperfection of reality and become other-worldly.

EVANGELISTS recruit. These infectious communicators of the gospel message recruit others to the cause. They call for a personal response to God's redemption in Christ, and also draw believers to engage the wider mission, growing the church. Evangelists can be so focused on reaching those outside the church that maturing and strengthening those inside is neglected.

SHEPHERDS nurture and protect. Caregivers of the community, they focus on the protection and spiritual maturity of God's flock, cultivating a loving and spiritually mature network of relationships, making and developing disciples. Shepherds can value stability to the detriment of the mission. They may also foster an unhealthy dependence between the church and themselves.

TEACHERS understand and explain. Communicators of God's truth and wisdom, they help others remain biblically grounded to better discern God's will, guiding others toward wisdom, helping the community remain faithful to Christ's word, and constructing a transferable doctrine. Without the input of the other functions, teachers can fall into dogmatism or dry intellectualism. They may fail to see the personal or missional aspects of the church's ministry.

~ Alan Hirsh, excerpt from "The Forgotten Ways", found online at <http://www.theforgottenways.org/what-is-apest.aspx>



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Why People Are Acting So Weird

Crime, “unruly passenger” incidents, and other types of strange behavior have all soared recently. Why?

By Olga Khazan



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Ephesians

Today's Message:

Healthy Unity through Aligned Diversity

Ephesians 4:7-16

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⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” [Psalm 68:18]

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Ephesians 4:7-16

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The Big Idea – We are gifted differently for unity

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The Old Testament Quote

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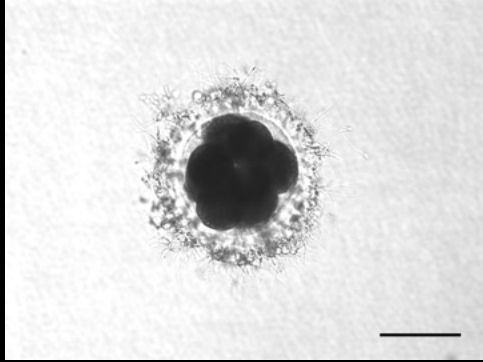
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The “Sending of The Son of God”

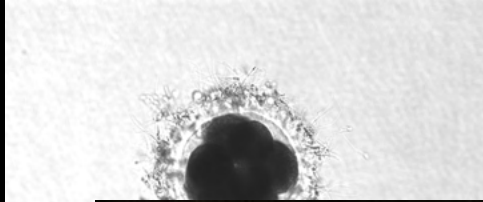
For God so loved the world that he
gave his one and only Son...

~ John 3:16

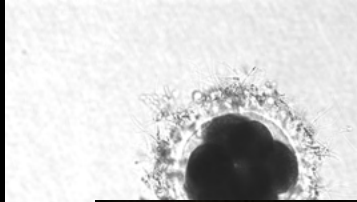
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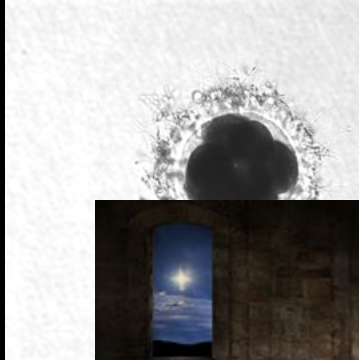
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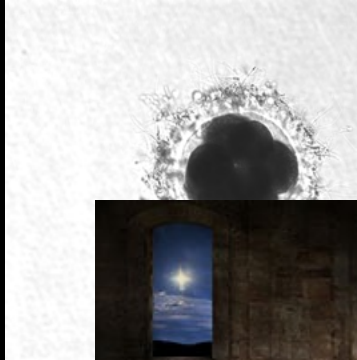
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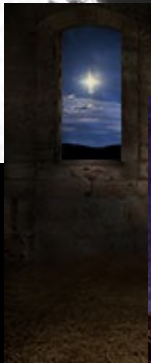
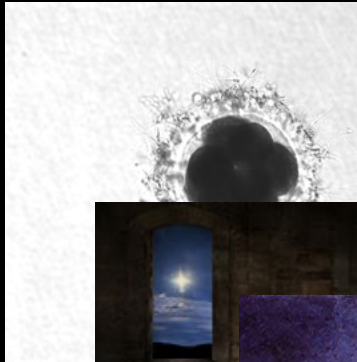
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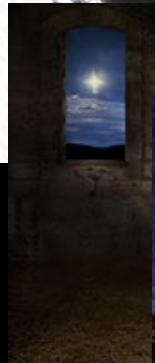
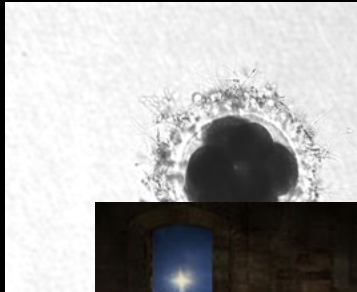
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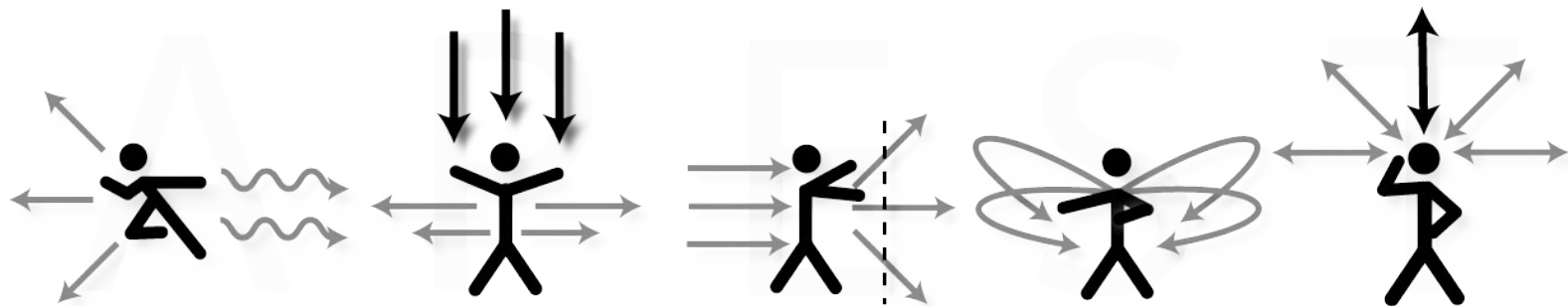
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The spoils of this war - 5 Offices and Types

Ephesians 4:11

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



APOSTLES extend the gospel. As the “sent ones,” they ensure that the faith is transmitted from one context to another and from one generation to the next. They are always thinking about the future, bridging barriers, establishing the church in new contexts, developing leaders, networking trans-locally.

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EVANGELISTS recruit. These infectious communicators of the gospel message recruit others to the cause. They call for a personal response to God's redemption in Christ, and also draw believers to engage the wider mission, growing the church.

SHEPHERDS nurture and protect. Caregivers of the community, they focus on the protection and spiritual maturity of God's flock, cultivating a loving and spiritually mature network of relationships, making and developing disciples.

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Equipping for Service

Ephesians 4:12a

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For the Purpose of maturity and unity

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What happens if we don't do this?

Ephesians 4:14

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How we do this TOGETHER!

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Church hurt



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Gospel-Centered Application:

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