

*Saints Equipped to Minister
Flying through Ephesians*

Ephesians 4:11–16
INTRODUCTION

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Grace Chapel

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Review of the Exposition:

- 1:3–14 Gentile believers should praise the Father for what the Trinity did for Jews first
- 1:15–23 Paul [a Jewish believer] thankfully prays for the enlightened Ephesian Gentile believers that they would know their calling in hope, their rich inheritance, & how powerfully the Father works for believers w/ His power that raised & seated Christ
- 2:1–10 Despite Jews & Gentiles being dead, God made alive, raised, & seated them together w/ Christ (saving separated – from – God - people by grace through faith) so they cannot boast but that His created Church would do the good works He prepared for it.
- 2:11–13 These now alive & near-to-God Gentiles are to remember their former alienation
- 2:14–22 Christ effected peace between alienated Jews & Gentiles when he made both one & broke down the dividing Law & He reconciled both to God, so Gentiles are no longer aliens, but fellow citizens with the saints, having been built (along w/ Jews) into a holy temple that is God's habitation—the Church.
- 3:1–7, 13 Paul [requests that they not lose heart at his imprisonment] on behalf of the Gentiles, because he assumes that they know of the grace (spiritual gift) given to Paul, namely that God revealed the previously unrevealed mystery to the apostles and NT prophets [e.g., that some Gentiles would be fellow heirs, of the same body, and fellow partakers (with some Jews)]
- 3:8–13 Paul received a grace (gift) to announce the Church's inheritance & the mystery dispensation—the Church—hidden from creation by the Creator— God's great eternal plan thru accomplished Christ. Thus, no one should lose heart over Paul's imprisonment, because (his message, that resulted in) imprisonment is their glory
- 3:14–19 In light of the union of Jews and Gentiles Paul prays to the Church's Father that He would strengthen the Ephesians that Christ might indwell their assembly in order that they (who were established in God's love) would know the extent and depth of Christ's love with the ultimate goal that they would manifest God's character in its fullness.
- 3: 20–21 Believers should praise the Father forever who works exceedingly [on behalf of the body of Christ] doing for it what we never could have imagined, let alone, asked for.
- 4:1–6 In light of God joining Jews and Gentiles in one body believers ought to live in a way appropriate to the fact that God has called them into His Church by humbly bearing with one another in love, that is, by preserving the unity that the Holy Spirit has effected through a jointly-bound peace [treaty, the peace-treaty that created the Church is because the one body corresponds to the fact that one triune God has called the church in one way
- 4:7–10 [In mild contrast w/ the body's unity] the Spirit gave spiritual gifts in proportion to the gifted people given to the Church by the ascended Christ (who first descended in the incarnation)

Review of 4:7–10

4:7 The HS gave each one of us a spiritual gift in proportion to how Christ gave us as gifted people to the Church

4:8–10 The basis for Christ giving gifted people to the Church is that the Victor (who first descended in the incarnation before ascending to heaven) has such a right

When and to where did Christ descend?

From the upper parts (heaven) to the lower parts (*of = namely*) earth.

A parachutist went from the upper parts to the lower parts = (to the) of earth (parts)

~~J + I — Down from surface to Hades, Up to surface, Up to heaven/HS down to earth~~

~~Y + I — Down to surface, down to Hades, up to surface, up to heaven/HS down to earth~~

V + I — Down from heaven to surface, up to heaven/HS down to earth

New Exposition

4:11 Christ Himself gave church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, & teachers (APEPTs)

Note the plurals: It does not say, He gave apostleship, prophecy, evangelism, pastoring, & teaching
 Christ gives people here, just as He gave people in 4:7b–8 (the HS gives spiritual gifts 4:7a)

**How many types of people does Eph 4:11 speak of Christ giving to the Church as gifts?
 Dealing with the Granville Sharp Plural.**

An example that is singular: Bill is the husband and father of his household.

Bill is both husband and father.

An example that is plural: Let the husbands and fathers please stand up.

Some are fathers (but not husbands); some are husbands (but not fathers);

Some are both fathers and husbands.

A biblical example in the plural: Matthew 16:1: The Pharisees and Sadducees came.

- 2:20 the apostles and prophets GSP ≠ apostle-prophets
- 3:5 the holy apostles and prophets of Him GSP ≠ apostle-prophets
- 4:11 the apostles and the prophets . . . the pastors and teachers GSP ≠ pastor-teachers

Excursus: 1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double-honorarium, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

	Elders who rule well	Elders who do not rule well
Elders who labor in word & doctrine	1	2? or 3?
Elders who do not labor in word & doctrine	2? or 3?	4

Contrary to expectation, double-honorarium rests more upon ruling than laboring in W&D

If Paul intended one elder per local church _____

But, if Paul intended more than one elder per local church _____

4:12 The purpose of Christ giving APEPTs is for the APEPTs to equip the saints, the purpose of the saints being equipped is so the saints will do ministry, the purpose of saints doing ministry is that the body of Christ be edified

Grocery list view: Christ gave APEPTs for (1) APEPTs to equip the saints,
 for (2) APEPTs to do ministry
 for (3) APEPTs to edify the body

Stairstep view:

Christ	gave APEPTs for purpose of APEPTs equipping the saints
The saints	are equipped for purpose of saints ministering
The purpose of the saints ministering	is to edify body

4:13 The time of Christ giving gifted people is until the body attains unity in faith concerning Christ to (when the Church becomes a mature man) comporting to Christ's mature stature

Prior to attaining a mature unity, the Church is like a bobble-head:

An immature body to which the mature head is attached

This passage has a corporate emphasis

4:14 The purpose for the Church becoming a mature body (comporting to Christ, the mature head) is that the Church not be immature children who remain doctrinally unstable as a result of human trickery

This passage has a corporate emphasis

4:15 Rather than being immature children who are doctrinally unstable, the body is to grow up to match its head (Christ) by means of speaking doctrinal truth lovingly

4:16 The whole body, because of being joined to Christ by every joint and ligament effectively doing its part, causes the body to grow (into the head) in order that it edify itself in love

Is it heresy for the body to cause its growth?

Who is it that edifies the body? Is this a new thought?

Conclusion and Application