

Built Up in Love

Ephesians 4:7-16

Introduction

I God Has Gifted Every Believer

- A. Prophesied in the OT - Ps 68:18
 - 1. Where did Jesus ascend to? - Eph 1:19-21
 - 2. Where did Jesus descend to? - 1 Pet 3:18; Is 61:1-2
 - 3. What did Jesus accomplish? - Is 61:1; Matt 27:52-53
- B. Fulfilled in the NT - 1 Acts 2:33; Cor 12:8-11

II God Has Gifted The Church

- A. With leadership
 - 1. Apostles -
 - 2. Prophets -
 - 3. Evangelists -
 - 4. Pastors -
 - 5. Teachers -
- B. To equip the church
 - 1. For works of service - Eph 2:10
 - 2. For the edification of the church - 1 Cor 14:12
- C. Until we all reach:
 - 1. Unity in the faith
 - 2. Unity in the knowledge of Christ
 - 3. Full maturity in Christ

III The Result of God's Gifts

- A. The church is protected from:
 - 1. Spiritual immaturity - 1 Cor 13:11
 - a. Instability - James 1:6
 - b. Vulnerability to:
 - Cunning and craftiness
 - Deceitful scheming

- B. The church is prepared to:
 - 1. Speak the truth in love
 - a. In order to grow up into Christ
 - 2. Build itself up in love
 - a. Through the contribution of each member

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share briefly what you think your spiritual gifts are? How are you using these to build up the church?
- 2. What does it mean "to speak the truth in love", as opposed to love without truth or truth without love? What does it take to speak to one another in this manner?
- 3. What does this passage teach us about the interdependence of the body of Christ? In what ways do you need others? In what way can you use the strengths and gifts God has given you to build up others? What are the pitfalls of being a "lone ranger" Christian?
- 4. What part are you playing in the building up and equipping of the church? Is there anything you would like to be doing or feel particularly called to do?
- 5. What area do you most need to "grow up" in spiritually? How can others around you assist you in this desired growth?
- 6. Pray for opportunities this week to be used by God to advance unity within the body and to move on to full maturity in Christ.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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