

EPHESIANS: PRECISION THINKING FOR ACCURATE THEOLOGY

SESSION 16 | EPHESIANS 4:12-21

THE GRACE GIVEN TO FOR THE UNITY OF OUR FAITH | EPHESIANS 4:7-16

- Verses 7-11 included in session 15
- Verse 12 –
 - The purpose of giving these positions was for **the perfecting of the saints**.
 - Note that **perfecting** is a better translation than *equipping*.
 - The Greek καταρτισμός [katartismos] is "*the ultimate work of art*."
 - The list in verse 12 is not a list of three separate things, but one building on another. It was **the saints** who did the **work of the ministry** toward the **edifying of the body of Christ**.
 - In 1 Cor 12:27-28 Paul also speaks of the **body of Christ** in the context of gifts.
 - In both 1 Cor. 12 and in this verse, the **body** is the local church, the reflection of the physical body that is in heaven.
- Verse 13 –
 - Continuing the purpose of the giving of offices, the goal of these offices was a **unity** in both **the faith and of the knowledge** of Jesus Christ.
 - This unity will bring the local church to be **a perfect man** who displays **the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**.
 - That is, the local church is the perfect reflection of the body of Christ, which is in heaven.
- Verse 14 –
 - If we reach this unity and become the **perfect man** (v. 13), then we would not be **children** in faith, who display these characteristics:
 - **tossed** and carried **about with every wind of doctrine**.
 - Fooled by the **sleight of men** along with their **cunning craftiness**.
 - These two issues are one of the greatest maladies in the church today.
- Verses 15-16 –
 - Rather than being **tossed to and fro, and carried about** (v. 14), we **may grow up into him in all things** when we are **speaking the truth**.
 - There is a good possibility that the comma should go after truth, thus "speaking the truth, in love we might grow up into him..."
 - The important matter is that we now **deceive** (v. 14) but speak truth.

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR WALK | EPHESIANS 4:17-32

- Verse 17 –
 - Literally, Paul instructs the Ephesian believers not to walk as *the rest of the nations are walking*.
 - Specifically, the nations are walking **in the vanity of their mind**.

