



Ephesians

*Finding Your Place,
Finding Your Way*

Growing Up in Church

August 14, 2011

Ephesians 4:1-16

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This 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? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until 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.

¹⁴ Then 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. ¹⁵ Instead, 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. ¹⁶ From 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.

Discussion Questions

How hard is it to find the balance between being ‘young at heart’ and being mature and responsible?

In verse one, what is ‘the calling you have received’?

How do you live a life worthy of that calling?

Is it possible?

According to Paul, where does living a life worthy of that call begin?

Why does he begin there?

How do we make Paul’s proscriptions in verses 2-6 part of our faith and part of our church?

Paul states that one of the purposes of the church is to ‘equip people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up’.

Do you see that as a primary purpose of the church?

How well do churches fulfill that mission?

How do we mature in our faith as the church matures?

What is the primary factor in the growing and building of the church?

How essential is each person in the church doing the work God has called it to do?

What does that mean for each believer’s relationship to the church?