

SESSION 16
EPHESIANS 4.11-16

Overarching Themes In Ephesians: "The letter dwells profoundly upon the Person of Jesus Christ and the Church."

Context: Paul's use of Psalm 68.17-18 to afford a picture of Christ's resurrection and ascent to the right hand of the Throne of God and then His subsequent unleashing of His grace gifts upon His Church on earth through the outpouring and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Learning Targets For Enduring Understanding From This Session: To understand the design of the Church of Jesus Christ – her composition, her atmosphere, and her goals.

V 11 Whose gifts are "His" gifts?

V 12 What kind of gifts are these?

What is the purpose for all the instructional gifts?

What is ministry and how do we understand the work of ministry? Eph 2.10

God's people (the saints) are equipped by the functions which God's servants (the 5) perform in order that the saints perform their individual roles of ministry within the Body and outside in ministry to the world.

V 13 What is this verse describing?

What 4 specific targets does Paul present as being essential to the fully mature church?

"Christ's care for His people promotes their growth and ensures that they develop into a stature which can only be measured by the fullness of Christ, and the result of this development is a church that is fully complete, embodying all His fullness." RPM

V 14 In this verse, what is presented as a major goal for the instructional gift's operation within the church?

V 15 With regard to the maturation of the church into the fullness of Christ's design for her, what is foundational?

What finally is the direction for church growth and the goal of church growth?

V 16 Who is the Whom in "from Whom"?

Who is the Supplier of the joints which join and knit the body together?

What is to be the atmosphere that enables the upward growth of the Church into the fullness Christ?

Christ, the Head, imparts His risen life to His Church and bestows by the Spirit His gifts of ministries to the Church. His servants (the 5 offices) fulfill their mission by equipping the saints and by being the ligaments of the Church's cohesion to Christ and to one another. Christ's people make the contribution needful for Christ's design for the Church to be functionally actualized; they move out for ministry in His Name to advance the Kingdom of God and at the same time, within the Body, are upbuilt and matured unto the fullness of Christ. RP Martin / WALBO jt