



life together

PURPOSE

AUGUST 14, 2022

READ

- We are focusing on aspects of life together as The Church. There is no better place to look than in the book of Ephesians to see how we live out this life together. This week, we are looking at our purpose.
- Read Ephesians 4:7-16 and pray, considering what lesson the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

EXAMINE

- In verses 7-10, Paul talks about Christ's gifts being given out in different measure to each of us. And that Christ, the ascended one, came down first to us from on high, freeing captives, and giving gifts to men. (See Ps. 68:18; Matt. 25:15; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:7) Why is it important that we recognize who the gifts come from? Are the gifts to be our focus or the One who "fills all things"?
- In verses 11-14, we have a statement outlining how the church grows to maturity and what that should look like. Unpacking this: the differing gifts are for what purpose? Who is actually to do the work of the ministry, v 12? What are the dangers of not growing into maturity, v 14?
- Verses 15-16 talk about growth and purpose. We are not to grow in any direction, but to grow to become the fully-functioning body of Christ. Based on these verses, what does that look like? What does it mean to be the body, with Christ as our head?
- When we experience the wind and waves of doctrine, human cunning, and deceitful schemes, how should we respond?

APPLY

- Last week, we learned about our unity in the church. This week, Paul points to the diversity of gifts and responsibilities within that unity. Why do you think this is important? How can we encourage one another as we try to live this out?
- In your life, what areas do you feel best prepared to do the work of ministry? What one area do you feel needs equipping? Are you seeking this out?
- Our gifts, rightly used, are for growing the church body. How are you fulfilling this purpose in your day-to-day life?

PRAY

Take time to write out below a prayer responding to this passage:

- Praise God for our calling to be part of His church, for Christ who fills all things, and for the spiritual gifts He gave each of us.
- Confess any areas where you have not been using your gifts to build up the body, or where you have allowed yourself to be carried along by human cunning, or where you are not living in unity with the body of Christ.
- Thank God for the different parts that make up the body, especially those who are meant to equip us for the work of the ministry.
- Pray that we would grow closer in unity and overcome our human frailty, all the body working properly, building itself up in love.
- Pray for God to help you apply this passage in your life this week.

NOTES

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