

For Building Up the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Key Verse: 4:12, "...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."

1. What was Paul's situation, and what does he urge believers to do (1)? Consider carefully with what attitude believers should do this (2-3). How is it possible to live like this (3:16)?
2. How and why is Paul emphasizing the "oneness" of believers (4-6; 2:11-13)? How is this related to his charge in verses 1-3? Why is it so difficult yet important for believers to be one in Christ?
3. What does Paul say Christ gives to each believer (7; 1Co 12:7,11)? What does Paul teach about Christ's victory, divinity and gift-giving from Psalm 68:18 (8-10)?
4. Whom did Christ give to his church, and how do each of these serve the church in various ways (11)? Who do they "equip" and for what specific and greater purposes (12)? How are you equipping others or being equipped for ministry to build up Christ's body?
5. What is the believers' goal to attain (13)? What characterizes immature faith (14)? How can believers grow up into Christ (15-16; 29, 32)?