UNITY AND MATURITY

Ephesians 4:1–16

Key Verse: 4:13

1. How does Paul introduce himself, and what does this show us about him? (1a; cf. 3:1) In light of this, what does he urge us to do? (1b) What is this “calling”? (1:4,5; 4:4) Why is it so important for us to be aware of our calling? What does it mean to “live a life worthy” of our calling? (5:2; cf. Php1:27; Col1:10; 1Th2:12)
2. What is the first step in living like this, and why is it so necessary? (2; cf. Col3:12,13) What is the goal? (3) What is “the unity of the Spirit” and “the bond of peace,” and why do we need to “keep” it? (Col3:15) List the things that unite all Christians (4–6). How and why does Paul emphasize God’s role in our unity? (6)
3. In contrast to our unity, what makes each believer different? (7,11; cf. Ro12:6–8) Why do you think Paul refers to these “gifts” to the church as “grace”? (7; cf. 3:8; 1Pe4:10) How is Christ’s victory revealed in his church? (8) In discussing our gifts, why does Paul tell us that Christ first “descended” before he “ascended”? (9,10; cf. Mt23:12)
4. List the especially gifted people Paul mentions (11). Where did they come from? Why did Christ give these people their gifts? (12) What was his ultimate goal? (13; Col1:28) What did Paul mean by becoming “mature”? (13; 3:19)
5. In contrast, how does Paul describe “infants”? (14) How can we grow into maturity practically? (15,16) Why is it so important to let Christ be our head?