

Eph. 4:1-16

Spiritual Gifts and Maturity

Sermon Notes for February 17, 2013 by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri
Spiritual Gifts, Part Three

Intro - The Juvenalization of American Christianity by Thomas E. Bergler; Revolt Against Maturity by Rushdoony
Amusing Ourselves to Death by Neil Postman

I. The Text

A. Bookends of the Text

1. Summary Call To Discipleship - v. 1 (Rom. 12)

2. The Goal - Grow Up, Attain Mature Manhood - vv. 13-16; 1 Cor. 14:20; Col. 1:28; Heb. 5:12-14
Love, Common Good (Church), Maturity -

B. Three Means of Attaining Maturity

1. The Exercise of Godly Character - vv. 2-6

a. **all humility** - lowliness of mind

Rom. 12:16; Phil. 2:3; 1 Pet. 5:5

b. **all gentleness** 2 Co. 10:1; Ga. 5:23; 1 Co. 4:21; 2 Ti. 2:24,25; Titus 3:2; Mt. 11:29

"It involves the courtesy, considerateness, and willingness to waive one's rights that come from seeking the common good without being concerned for personal reputation or gain" WBC

c. **patience** - long temper, make allowance for others' shortcomings

Gal. 5:22; 1 Thes. 5:14; 1 Cor. 13:4; Col. 1:11; Col. 3:12 (with the preceding two)

d. **bearing with one another in love** - Eph. 4:32

"fully accepting them in their uniqueness, including their weaknesses and faults, and allowing them worth and space." WBC Love is required for this.

e. **eagerly maintaining the unity of Spirit in the bond of peace** (think Jews-Gentiles)

transition from love to unity; Only here and in v. 13; Gal. 5:22

"not to the congeniality of some social grouping but to the unity which God's Spirit gives and which is the ground of the Church's existence" WBC

vv. 4-6 Statements of Inclusion; Shema, Transcendence and Immanence

2. The Functioning of Spiritual Gifts - vv. 7-13

3. Speaking the Truth in Love - v. 15

C. Evidences of a Lack of Maturity - v. 14

"immaturity is evidenced in instability, rootlessness, lack of direction, and susceptibility to manipulation and error." WBC

D. Summary Conclusion - Christ's Body

II. Application

A. Thanksgiving for Knowing the Plan!!

B., A Commitment to Maturity

C. A Commitment to the Means of Maturity