

LESSON 8 - EPHESIANS 4:7-16

With the opening of chapter four, we explored with Paul the depths and significance of unity in the body of Christ. In this week's lesson, we now move from the unity of the body of Christ to diversity in the body. As we have seen, God created each of us to be unique masterpieces (Ephesians 2:10). Our personalities, gifts, and abilities are all diverse; and that diversity, put under the control of the Holy Spirit, works to preserve the unity of the Church. In other words, we are truly living stones fitted together into His temple.



THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Read Ephesians 4:7-16

1. Coming to this significant passage, try to find a quiet spot to slowly read these verses, asking the Holy Spirit to clarify and reveal the truth that is here. As you read through this passage, underline or write out any words or phrases that stand out to you.

2. Try to summarize the meaning in each of the passages below:

verses 7–12 –

verses 13–16 –

3. If you could title this section of Scripture, what would you title it?



MIXING THE MORTAR

Read Ephesians 4:7-12

4. Paul tells us in verse 7 that God has given each believer spiritual gifts and abilities to strengthen the body of Christ as a whole. Considering your own life, do you know what your spiritual gift is?

CUTTING THE STONE



Beloved, these verses are a vivid reminder of what it cost our Lord to make available these gifts to us—it cost Him everything! This should serve as a powerful motivator to take the time and effort to identify the gifts God has given you. How will you use your spiritual gifts this week? Write out a prayer of gratitude and commitment in response to the grace that has been given to you.

*Great King of grace my heart subdue,
I would be led in triumph too;
As willing captive to my Lord,
To own the conquests of His word.*

6. What are the four categories of gifted men Paul mentions in verse 11?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

7. What word does Paul repeat that shows not everyone receives the same spiritual gift?

8. From verse 12, what two reasons are spiritual gifts given?

9. What is your reaction to the idea that every believer is called for the work of the ministry?
 - a. How are you living in light of that truth?

 - b. In what ways do you contribute to the building up of others?

 - c. After prayerful consideration, write out what you believe your calling is and how you can use your gifts to build up the body of Christ.



USING A TROWEL

Read Ephesians 4:13-16

10. What two things does Paul say will be the result of these spiritual gifts (verse 13)?

11. In verses 14–16, we see four evidences of spiritual growth. Can you try to list them below?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

12. What are some of the danger signs of a believer who is not growing and maturing?

a. How does the apostle describe those influences that can cause us to be carried about?

13. According to verse 15, what type of speech is a sign of maturity?

a. Can you give an example of speaking the truth – but not in love?

*Truth without love is brutality,
Love without truth is hypocrisy.*

14. Compare verses 15–16 with Paul’s analogy of the church found in 1 Corinthians 12:12–28.
- a. What part do all members play in the effective working of the body of Christ?
 - b. Can any member of the body say they are not important?
 - c. How are all members to be active participants in the work and functioning of the Church?
 - d. How could you illustrate this principle of unity and diversity using your own church as an example?



STONE UPON STONE

Group Discussion Questions

Take a moment to answer the following questions for your time of discussion after the message. Read Ephesians 4:7–16.

1. What is the goal all believers should be growing toward?
 - a. What are some things we can be doing to help ourselves meet that goal?

2. How would you explain why different believers have different capacities to serve?

3. Have you ever felt like an unneeded or unimportant part of a group or team?
 - a. How did you cope with it?

 - b. What would Paul have told you to do?

4. From these verses in Ephesians 4, what is to be the nature of our speech?
 - a. What does this imply?
 - b. Is there ever occasion to lie?
 - c. What happens to your ministry or testimony when you are caught in even the simplest of lies?
 - d. Has there ever been a time when someone told you the cold, hard truth about yourself? How did you respond?
 - e. Have you ever heard the loving reality about yourself? What was the difference? How did it help you?
5. What personal lesson has ministered to you from this passage of Scripture?

