

Ephesians 4

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 4.
- B. Subject: the community of faith.

II. The community described.

- A. God has intended to build society around the church.
- B. The church belongs to God and not its members.
- C. The church is never a building.
- D. All that follow Christ are part of this new society.
- E. The church's conduct.
 - 1. It is to be lowly and meek.
 - 2. It should be filled with compassion and love.
 - 3. It should be visibly demonstrating to the world that it is healed.
- F. The character of the church.
 - 1. It is a body within which a Triune God dwells. Our own bodies and spirits provide an illustration of this.
 - 2. We are members of one another in the church—we all need each other.
 - 3. There is diversity in the church.
- G. The capabilities of the church.
 - 1. Every Christian without fail has been given one or more spiritual gifts.
 - 2. Spiritual gifts are to help us in our spiritual life.
 - 3. The gifts are given to us according to the measure of the gift, which Christ is to us.
- H. The special coordinating ability of the church.
 - 1. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers are necessary for the coordination of the church.

2. This corresponds to the four support systems of the body: the skeleton (Apostles), the nervous system (prophets), the digestive system (evangelists) and the circulatory system (pastor-teachers).

I. The goal of the church is having everyone in it grow up.

1. A mark of maturity is a church that is more than a meeting.

2. A mark of maturity is speaking the truth in love.

III. The community in action.

A. Christians are not to be futile in thinking and licentious in practice like the world.

B. They must walk through the world by putting off the old nature and putting on the new nature.

C. You put off the old nature when you recognize it for what it is.

Application questions:

1. What is the church to look like?

2. How is the variety of gifts supposed to function in the church? Explain.

3. How does one put off the old nature? What does this mean?
