

Title: To Be Like Jesus!

Text: Ephesians 4:11-13

Today we want to ~~come~~ back to our Study of the book of Ephesians. It is a wonderful book written by the Apostle Paul to the Church at Ephesus. It is a book dealing with basic doctrines of the Christian Faith; and some practical aspects about UNITY within the church. And that is where we left off a couple of weeks ago. We were discussing those principles which led to UNITY within the church.

So, please take your Bibles and turn with me to Ephesians chapter 4. Ephesians chapter 4 beginning with Verse 11....(READ Vs 11-13)

PRAYER

The Church of Jesus Christ is a spiritual UNITY. It is built upon faith in Christ. Unity is not built upon the ~~principle~~ ^{idea} that we all ~~have~~ ^{must have} the same likes or dislikes. ^{Noway} But, we are a group of people who are made one because of certain special spiritual ~~unities~~ ^{principles} that we wholed in common. And these special ~~unities~~ ^{principles} were spelled out in Vsses 4 thru 6 in this chapter. And if you will remember they were ONE BODY...ONE SPIRIT...ONE HOPE OF OUR CALLING...ONE LORD...ONE FAITH...ONE BAPTISM...AND ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL.

Those are the principles that we should all wholed in common if we are to have unity within the church.

(4C) Now, in verses 11 through 16, Paul is going to ^{talk} about ~~HOW THE CHURCH IS BUILT UP~~ ^{The purpose of Unity}. ~~HOW IT IS EDIFIED TOGETHER INTO ONE BODY~~ ^{Unity ~~bring~~ will edify and build the church}. How we can minister. And through that ministry the church will grow---not only in numbers but in spiritual maturity of the members. ^{of edification} ~~Thus demonstrating our Unity Together~~

This is perhaps the most important section of the entire book of Ephesians. This is the back bone for understanding this ~~Ephesians~~ ^{book}. And that is what we want to study in the next couple of weeks. ^{This purpose of Unity} So, let's look at it.

(1D) ^{in Vc 11} First of all, Paul mentions that God has given to the church four types of leaders: APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELIST, AND PASTOR-TEACHERS.

The Apostles and Prophets, as we learned from chapter 2 verse 20 were given to the ~~Easly~~ church to be the foundation of the church.

The church was built upon the foundation of the teaching/~~of~~ of the Apostles and Prophets. And as we have already learned, once we have the ^{Bible} ~~the~~ office of Apostles and Prophets ceased to exist.

But, today, we still have the office of Exangelist and PASTOR-TEACHER. You all know what an Evangelist is....A person called by God to go to a local church and help the people and Pastor bring new life into that body. And there are many ways in which he does that.

And of course the Pastor-Teacher is the one called by the local church to be the Pastor-Teacher of that local assembly.

(20) Now, what is the function of the Evangelist and the Pastor-Teacher. Look at Vs 12....and let me make it personal....MY FUNCTION as Pastor-Teacher of this congregation is..VS 12...."to equip or train the saints(or christians) of First Baptist Church , for the work of service ~~or~~ ministry.

Now, why is necessary to train christians for ministry...why? So, that you will have a ministry to perform resulting in growth of the local church. This church, dear frinds, ^{will} ~~we~~ grow....in spiritual maturity and in numbers when we really start minisering to one another and others outside the church.

Now, I want to show you ~~how~~ how that can really happen as we come (21) to THE PURPOSE OF EDIFICATION IN VS 13

The purpose of edification. Why should we ^{desire to minister to one another} ~~be using our spiritual~~ gifts? Why should we come to this assemble to hear ^{The Pastor - ~~Frederick~~} ~~gifted~~ leaders teach ^{us} God's Word? WHY SHOULD WE DO IT?

Vs 13 says .."until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the Stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ."

() Now, the purpose of edification, simply stated is two fold: ONE is unity. And two..is maturity.

~~Now~~, ^{vs} 13 starts out by saying "UNTIL WE ALL ATTAIN TO THE UNITY." ^{it is Unity in Two Areas}
~~Let's take a look at that word "UNITY".~~

() ^{First of all} The UNITY OF THE FAITH. It is not the unity that brought us all into the faith. That would be a unity of faith in the Lord Jesus.

But, the text, here, is very clear in the Greek. It puts the definite article "THE" in front of the word "faith". When it says "THE FAITH" it is the ~~sum~~ total of that which is christian doctrine and teaching.

Jude 3 says that we "are to earnestly contend for THE FAITH which was once for all given to the saints."

THE FAITH, DEAR FREINDS, is the WORD OF GOD. The Bible itself. What Paul is saying is that there has to be, in order for the body to function, correctly, in order for us to minister to one another, there has to be a basic ground of unity on the WORD OF GOD. ^{The point is} ~~You see~~, no edification, no real encouragement of our lives takes place, even though we may think other wise, but no real encouragement or edification takes place until it flows out-off the scriptures itself.

I am amazed at this. How often people think that some how you can encourage somebody without using the Word of God. * ^{Human Counselors}

Now, we mean well. But what we are saying is that human wisdom and human encouragement and human comfort can some how do for us, what God's Word ~~can~~ cann't. And that in itself is a tremendous weakness. That is not the unity of the faith. The body must be unified around one essential doctrine.

That the source of all ministry--of what I say to people--what is going to really help them --has to be THE FAITH. *- The Word of God*

There isn't any substitution for that. It isn't my wisdom..it is not my thoughts...it is not my opinion...^{Non} ~~or~~ yours.

When you share with people, when you minister to them, the only thank that is really going to build up is GOD'S OWN WORD.

That is why knowledge of the scriptures is so important. Let's start with UNITY. But let's understand that it is unity around THE FAITH--God's Own Word.

() And to emphaise that further, Paul adds the words "KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD."

Paul uses a great word, here, translated "KNOWLEDGE". It comes from a word meaning "a full ^{Complete} ~~measure~~ knowledge". Literally, "the knowledge by experie^{nce} ~~was~~ ^{with} something ^{added to it} ~~upon it~~." Namely, THE KNOWLEDGE BY FACT.

So, you take facts and experience and put them together over a period of time and you have growth and you have ~~instability~~ ^{Unity}.

We will not become instant encouragers over night. It takes the building up of our own lives in the Word of God. It takes the unity of the knowledge, the full ^{Complete} ~~measure~~ knowledge, of one who not only knows facts from the Bible, but is experiencing those ^{facts} ~~things~~ in his life. And that ^{Knowledge} ~~maturity~~ which does take time brings an essential unity to the believers in their ministry. And it is based upon the knowledge of the Word which is put so beautifully here in Vs 13 as "KNOWLEDGE OF THE ^{SUN} ~~SON~~ OF GOD."

If you don't see Jesus in this book, you had better go back and look at it again.

2 Peter 3:18 says that "we are to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *That is your responsibility - my responsibility is to teach the W.O.G. Your responsibility is to grow in it.*

I Would like to ask ~~if~~ you a simple question just to evaluate: DO YOU KNOW MORE TODAY ABOUT JESUS CHRIST THEN YOU DID A WEEK AGO? OR A MOth AGO?.. OR A YEAR AGON

^{Bible} The suggest in its teaching that it is possible for christians who have known the Lord for many years, chronologically, but to acturally regressed in their knowledge of the scriptures. It is possible to go from a state of maturity to immaturity. The most ~~da~~ dangerous thought that can come into your mind as a christian as you grown in the Lord is that when you arrive to a point of basic ^{knowledge} ~~maturity~~ that you can maintain it without any further growth. That is not the teaching of the Bible.

I have met and you have met people who at one time in their life ^{have} had a great knowledge of the scriptures. They seemingly ^{had} a wonderful ministry. But because of sin in their life, of their neglecting God's Word, of resting on their back performance, they lost that closeness to Christ and the ministry they had with Him. People, who even though you think they sholud know better, act and think like babies in Christ.

Now, there ^{is} nothing wrong with beigg a baby in Christ if that is where you literally are. You have just come to know Jesus. Don't be embarrassed with what you don't know. Thank God you are learning.

But, if you have known the Lord for many years, and you find yourself going back into the habits of babyhood and toddlerhood, and child like faith in the Lord, ...rather than...mature adults--- ^{you ought to be concerned about that} ~~growth~~

^{Dear friend} ~~Boy~~, I just want you challege you. Where did you leave? Where did you depart? What happened? What sin is being tolerated in your life? When did you decide that you can operate on past facts and not continually renew your mind in the Word of God. [?]

^{you see} ~~Dear~~ friends, we will really have a great ministry here. And everyone of us will profit if there is a basic unity around THE FAITH -- God's Word-- and around the importance of knowing Jesus.

The knowl~~de~~ge of Jesus and ^sthe knowledge of this book is what brings the body of Christ together. It makes it important to me what you say to me from God's Word. We must be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves. Because people often tell us things that they think are gospel or they think are from God, but in reality they are their own opinions.

And part of the problem of Christian experience and ~~maturity~~^{ministry} and relating to each other is knowing the difference between an opinion and what is really the Word of God. Because it is only the Word of God that is going to build up my life. That is really going to encourage me and make me the ~~man~~^{person} that God really wants me to be.....Very important.

What is The purpose of education? -

It is UNITY....BUT...~~ALSO~~^{NEEDS} MATURITY

() In Vs 13, he says not only should we ~~attain~~^{come} to ~~the~~ unity, but also to a mature man. ...Now, that doesn't mean that you will be without sin.

If I ask all the mature believers, here ^{to stand up} First of all, it would be a problem of embarrassment to say HOW MANY OF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE MATURE?

Raise your hands....And your wife pulls it down and says.."NO YOUR NOT" That is a problem right there. Maybe it would be best if we all said.."WE ARE LEARNING...WE ARE GROWING..."

But, if we could say, we are mature. And all of us would raise our hands and say.."WE ARE MATURE."

And then I would ask the question: how many of you are morally perfect. Those of you who would continue to keep your hands up, would probably have immaturity in your life... *Do you understand?*

It is the mature believer ~~who~~ that understand that we are not talking about moral perfection.

Many have said, and I agree, that the closer you are to Christ, the stronger you are in maturity, the greater will be your understanding and reconition of sin in your life.

It is the child that sees the biggies only. As long as ~~you~~ avoid the biggies then I am spiritual. The more you grow in Christ, the more you move from the deeds to the realm of your thoughts, into the realm of your words, and the motives of your heart, the more you begin to see the penetrating spirit of God in your life as he just opens you up and reveals the mess that is there. And it causes you more and more to fall on the grace and forgiveness of Christ. If you feel that you have arrived, my friend, you don't understand ^{maturity} Maturity is not moral perfection.

The very word used here..used some 86 times in the N.T. deals with the completion...completing the task..coming to a point of knowledge where there is a subtle persuasion about things. It is used by the Greeks to indicate an adult. If I saw an adult I would use the word "perfect" here to describe him. In contrast to someone who was a little child. IT IS A BEING AN ADULT AS A BELIEVER., based upon the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

=Based=upon=the=faith=and=knowledge=of=Jesus=Christ; I have a subtle persuasion about my faith in the Lord.

For Example

I like what Paul wrote to Deacons about holding fast to the confession of their faith and being able to do this with a clear conscience. *That is maturity*

Paul said it also to Elders in Titus 1. "The leaders of our church, of all people, should have no doubt nor question about the doctrines of the Word of God. That ought to be firm and strong."

That is simply saying that your ~~are~~ are mature. You are an adult in your knowledge of what is essential. And standing by it and believing it with a clear conscience. *Ch, How we need maturity*

But, ~~it also refers to~~ *it* is a godly life style, ~~it~~ *that* is being seen in your life. ~~No, not moral perfection. BUT YES..~~ A CERTAIN degree of maturity in the way I live. Making judgements about things based upon Biblical teachings and not my own personal pleasurer. *you make a decision on life, based on a biblical principle - NOT upon what the world thinks*

OUR WE MATURE? That is the goal of edification.

Now, Havers

The point ~~is~~ *we* people will not become mature without the help of other christians. ~~Until we start using our gifts to minister to one another.~~ *we need* You cannot be strong and mature in a vacuum. A lot of people think so. ~~✱~~

Today - We see results the result of the power

But yourself out on an island and give yourself the Bible. Can you, by yourself, be the mature person that God wants you to be?

That would be difficult to argue based upon this text. As important as the Bible is. Because until that Bible effectives your life in relationship to people, you never really know where the maturity lies. It is important to be mature in knowledge. But it is also important to be mature in life. *X EARTH DAY* DOES ~~IT~~ *our faith* MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WAY WE LIVE? *That is the issue*

C) Then Paul goes a little further by helping us to understand how far this maturity goes by saying the "Measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ."

Dear Friends,
~~people~~, to be like Jesus is where it is at. Oh, not to dress in clothes that are two thousand years old. That is not the point. It is not the cultural customs of Christ that we are dealing with.

Jesus would be concerned about that and things

It is the attitudes of Jesus towards people. It is the great qualities of his life and how he related to others. Until we are like Jesus, we are really not mature. Until our responses to people are truly what the Bible says: love...does...and...is..we are not really mature.

We may know what to do, but until it is done, it is not what ~~he~~ *Jesus* wanted. The measure of maturity is literally JESUS. The fulness of what He is.. every beautiful ~~thing~~ *thing* that ever came out of his life...that is what God wants you and me to be.

Are you more like Jesus today than you were a year ago?

Can people look at you and really see the Lord Jesus in how you handle things?...how you related to them....what you do....

Example - E.M. Preachers

And that isn't ~~you~~ based upon your guess as to what that life syle ought to be. It is spelled out in scripture. As you study and apply the Scripture, the Holy Spirit bears witness with your sprit that you are a child of God...that you are doing and living according to his will.

To Grow in the Grace and Knowledge is to be

~~If we are mature, we will be like Jesus.~~ We will reflect in our life what the Bible really says about Him and what God really wants of us in our relationship to ~~people~~ *those around us. That is Christian maturity.*

I challenge you to leave the elementary doctrines of faith and move
Shall We Close In Prayer) To maturity?