

Sermon Outline

Striving for Unity

Ephesians 4:1-16

➤ Introduction:

- The importance of church unity in a fractured world

A. It is derived from God himself (v.1)

1. Our prior condition- A state of alienation and hostility (Eph 2:11-12,14)
2. Reconciled us to himself and to one another (Eph 2:13-19)

B. It is maintained by grace and intentional focus (vv.2-6)

1. By a Christ-like character (Philip 2:3)
2. By focusing on the essentials of our faith (Eph 4:4-6)

C. It is enhanced by Christ's gifts to his church (vv.7-12)

1. The giver of the gifts (vv.7-11a)
2. The types of gifts (v.11)
3. The purpose of the gifts (v.12)

D. It grows through spiritual maturity (vv.13-16)

1. Growth in faith (vv.13a,14)
2. Growth in the knowledge of Christ (v.13b)
3. Growth in likeness to Christ (vv.13c, 15b)
4. Growth in speaking truth in love (v.15a)
5. Growth in the use of our gifts (v.16; 1 Peter 4:10)