

Koinonia and Authority **in the Church**

Ephesians 4:1-16

February 21, 2010

Two Key Questions:

- How does God actually go about creating *koinonia* in the life of the church?
- How can we participate in what he's doing?

Isaiah 9:6-7

“⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”

Thoughts on Ephesians 4:1-11

- Paul begins by encouraging us toward unity.
- He then he quickly adds that we have differing gifts in differing measures, but that this actually serves to build up the church.
- He explains this first by showing that Jesus established proper governance in the church.
 - We see this in the lives of the first apostles.
 - We see this in the life of Paul (see Acts 9, 13)
 - We see this in Acts 20:28 and texts like Heb 13:17

Hebrews 13:17

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Two Crucial Implications:

- This teaching puts Jesus in his proper place, namely, at the head of the church.
- This teaching vests those who Jesus has appointed with divine authority. The best model for understanding this is the home.

1 Timothy 3:6-7

*“⁴ He must manage his own household well,
with all dignity keeping his children submissive,
⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage
his own household, how will he care for God's
church?”*

Two Quick Stories

- Korah and Moses (Numbers 16)
- Timothy and the Church in Ephesus (1 Tim 4:12)
 - “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”