

Koinonia and Authority in the Church
EPHESIANS 4:1-16
FEBRUARY 21, 2010

Questions for Study & Reflection

1. As we turn toward practical things in our series on *koinonia*, do you see why it's important for us to keep sight of the deeper theological things involved in this doctrine?
2. Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and discuss the eternal nature of governance in the Kingdom of God. What practical experience have you had that cause you to bristle at this thought? What makes the governance of Jesus good news rather than bad news?
3. Read Ephesians 4:1-8 and note how Paul argues both for the unity of the church and the diversity of gifts given by Jesus. Why do you think he builds this tension in these verses?
4. Paul explains the mystery of vv 1-8 in vv 11-16. Do you see how the establishing of proper authority works to create both unity and fruitfulness in the church? Can you think of any biblical stories that demonstrate Jesus establishing authority in the church?
5. How do the stories of Mike, Kevin and Charlie display the leadership of Jesus in the church? How does Jesus leadership in turn establish their authority?
6. Reflecting on the stories of Korah and Moses, and Timothy and the church of Ephesus, can you see how the calling of Jesus on the life of a leader breeds a spirit of calm, humility, and confidence in the leader?
7. Read 1 Timothy 4:12 and discuss how Paul advises Timothy to establish his leadership and respond to his critics.