

“KOINONIA AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS”
EPHESIANS 4:1-16
FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Questions for Study & Reflection

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-11 and articulate in your own words the tension that Paul is building into this text. What’s Paul’s main point in vv 1-6? How do his words in vv 7-11 relate to this point?

2. Now read Ephesians 4:11-16 and articulate in your own words how Paul resolves the tension in this text. How does God use differences in gifts and position to work for the unity rather than the disunity of the church?

3. What does the vision Paul lays out in this passage imply for how leaders ought to conceive and use their authority (see Math 20:25ff)? What does it imply for those who are called to submit to their leadership (which, by the way, is every one of us)? What part does contentment in Christ play in this?

4. Knowing that the word “equip” generally means “to make something completely adequate,” look up the following texts and meditate on what it means “to equip the saints for the work of the ministry” (Eph 4:13):
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:9-10 (the word “united” in verse 10 is the same as “equip” in Eph 4:12).

 - b. Galatians 6:1 (the word “restore” is the same as “equip” in Eph 4:12).

 - c. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 (the word “supply” is the same as “equip” in Eph 4:12).

 - d. Hebrews 13:20-21 (notice who's doing the equipping in this verse and ponder what that implies for our understanding of Eph 4:11-16).