

STUDY SEVEN | EPHESIANS 4:1-16

REBUILT

Story so far

Chapters 1-3 have celebrated God's eternal plan. This plan was to gather all things on heaven and on earth together under Christ(chapter 1); through the death and resurrection of Christ, which reconciles us to God and to each other(chapter 2); to manifest his triumphant wisdom to the spiritual realms in his church(chapter 3)

Now in chapters 4-6, Paul is explaining how his readers must live as a church committed to gathering people under Christ. He outlines three ingredients for church growth here in 4:1-16: maintaining unity, contributing ministry; and growing in maturity.

Effort Required

Being obedient to what Paul writes means growing more like Jesus. We are to 'make every effort' (v.3) to be like Christ in our horizontal relationships. We could try to be more interested in other people, slow to speak and quick to listen. We could seek to see others cared for and welcomed rather than looking to have our own needs met. We won't get this right all the time but as we look to our own attitudes and actions towards our brothers and sisters we want to be people who are growing in these areas.

'Ascending on high'

The quote from Psalm 68 in v.8 speaks of the ascended Christ giving his people to the world. Paul explains that Jesus has not only given every church the apostles and prophets of the first century(v.11, 2:20), he has also given some people in every church the gifts needed to be "evangelists...pastors and teachers".

A NEW HUMANITY

APRIL 25

EPHESIANS 1:1-14 REDEEMED

MAY 2

EPHESIANS 1:15-23 RESURRECTED

MAY 9

EPHESIANS 2:1-10 RESTORED

MAY 16

EPHESIANS 2:11-22 RECONCILED

MAY 23

EPHESIANS 3:1-13 REVEALED

MAY 30

EPHESIANS 3:14-21 RENEWED

JUNE 6

EPHESIANS 4:1-16 REBUILT

JUNE 13

EPHESIANS 4:17-5:2 REPENTANT

JUNE 20

EPHESIANS 5:3-20 REGENERATE

RESOURCE



RICHARD COEKIN | EPHESIANS FOR YOU

GETTING STARTED

1. How do people think churches grow?
2. What do you think?

INTO THE TEXT

READ VERSES 1-6

3. What does verse 1 suggest Paul will be teaching us about in the rest of the letter?
4. What do church members need to put effort into (v. 3) ?
5. What three attitudes does Paul lay out in verse 2 that we need to adopt?
6. How do verses 4-6 underline the special Spirit-given unity we have within church?

READ VERSES 7-13

5. What has each church member been given (v.7)? By whom?
6. What is the aim and outcome of people using their gifts (v. 12-13)?
7. How would you counter the idea that only paid ministers are to do ministry and the rest of us are to receive ?

READ VERSES 14-16

8. What will a church where every member is contributing to the ministry:

not do (v. 14) ?

do (v.15) ?

9. How does the image of the church that Paul gives in verse 16 underline all that he's been saying in this passage?

TAKEAWAY

10. In what way can you be a contributor (rather than a consumer):

in nurturing unity?

contributing your ministry?

growing maturity?

11. In what ways can you pray that leaders would equip our church to serve?

12. Spend time now praying through these ideas.