

Obedying the Call of Our Master:
The Call to Mutual Encouragement
Ephesians 4:11-16
November 16, 2014
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. Children's Sermon

1. What do you think your parents hope you will learn by the time you are an adult? (*Wisdom, virtue and eloquence*)¹
2. What tools will we use to try to achieve these ends? (*Truth, goodness and beauty*)¹

B. The Call of Our Master?

1. Authority & Obedience (Repentance)
2. Holiness: Belonging & Glory (Faith)
3. Gifts to Build Christ's Body (Love)
 - a. God is Growing Us into a Temple

Ephesians 2:20–21

[You are]²⁰ built on the **foundation** of *the apostles and prophets*, Christ *Jesus himself* being the **cornerstone**,²¹ in whom **the whole structure**, being joined together, **grows into a holy temple** in the Lord.

b. We Must Build Ourselves into a Body

Ephesians 4:15-16

¹⁵ Rather, **speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up** in every way *into him who is the head, into Christ*,¹⁶ from whom **the whole body**, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when **each part is working properly, makes the body grow** so that it **builds itself up in love**.

¹ “Traditionally, education is the cultivation and nourishment of a human soul on truth, goodness and beauty by means of the seven liberal arts, such that students realize their humanitas and acquire wisdom, virtue and eloquence.” The Common Core and the Classical Tradition | Inside Classical Education <http://insideclassicaled.com/?p=822>

C. Further Context in Ephesians

1. Peace & Intimacy with God

Ephesians 2:17-18, 22

¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and *peace* to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him *we both have access in one Spirit to the Father*. ... ²² In him you also are being *built together into a dwelling place for God* by the Spirit.

2. Love of Christ

Ephesians 3:17-19

...that *Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and *to know the love of Christ* that surpasses knowledge, that you may be *filled with all the fullness of God*.

3. Therefore Walk...

Ephesians 4:1-3

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner *worthy of the calling to which you have been called*, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, *bearing with one another in love*, ³ eager to maintain *the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*.

4. Gifts of Grace...

Ephesians 4:7

⁷ But *grace was given* to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... (Psalm 68)

II. Unity, Diversity, and Maturity in the Body of Christ

Key Idea

God gave each of us to our brothers and sisters in Christ in order to build one another up into a perfect body for Christ (who is our head).

A. Gift of God's Word (Diversity)

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹ And **he gave** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² **to the equipping (preparing, perfecting) of the saints** into the work of ministry, into building up the body of Christ...

B. The Perfection of Christ's Body (Unity)

Ephesians 4:13

...¹³ until **we all attain** to the unity of the *faith* and of *the knowledge of the Son of God*, to mature manhood (a complete/perfect man), to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...

C. The Protection of Christ's Body

Ephesians 4:14

¹⁴ so that **we may** no longer **be children** (Pl.), *tossed to and fro* (Pl.) by the *waves* and *carried about* (Pl.) by every *wind of doctrine*, by human *cunning* (dice), by *craftiness* in *deceitful schemes*.

III. Summary & Application

A. Summary

Ephesians 4:15-16

¹⁵ Rather, **speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up** in every way *into him who is the head, into Christ*, ¹⁶ from whom *the whole body*, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when *each part is working properly*, **makes** the body grow so that it **builds itself up in love**.

...they are to set forth this truth *in love*, an expression that rules out all cunning and deception. ²

B. Application: In Love...

² O'Brien, P. T. (1999). *The letter to the Ephesians* (p. 311). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

1. Bear with one another in love...
2. Speak the truth of the gospel in love...
3. Do your part to build up Christ's body in love

All those who have been urged to live a life worthy of their calling (v. 1) are to bear with one another in love (v. 2) and to testify to the truth of the gospel in love (v. 15; see also on v. 16). *In love* describes the sphere of the Christian life and spells out the manner in which the ministry of all is to occur.³

Key Idea

God gave each of us to our brothers and sisters in Christ in order to build one another up into a perfect body for Christ.

³ Ibid. (pp. 311–312).