

EPHESIANS - Ephesians 4:14a
Message 65
March:
Words: 6151

INTRO: We are in the first section of the practical part of the book of Ephesians. It deals with Christian unity and the section goes from 4:1-16. And to achieve this unity God gave some Apostles and prophets. As I view it, these men gave us the NT. Then He gave some evangelists. All of the Apostles had a part in this as well as they brought the Gospel to the then known world.

In the last message we looked at church unity. Is it the task of pastors to unite the various churches or denominations? I believe the pastor's task is to edify believers until they come to maturity. Only in this way can true unity ever be achieved. I do not believe we will ever bring about true unity by focusing on unity between separate churches. One of the greatest reasons we do not have greater church unity, I believe, is because pastors are not truly bringing believers to maturity. Furthermore, in our efforts to bring about unity we are compromising and getting weaker, not stronger. The divisions between mainline denominations and the true faith is getting greater, not less.

Once churches were established, it then required pastors and teachers to finish the believers. This is the task of shepherding. And without the New Testament there would be no unity. Without evangelists there would be nothing to unite. And without preachers there would be no one to see to the unity. And now the pastors are to edify the church they are responsible for until they reach Christian maturity.

The aim of Christian maturity is that believers come to the point where they are united in the faith and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. God wants to bring them to the state of a perfect man, such as Jesus Christ was, so Paul says they are to reach the state of a perfect man, to the measure of the mark of the fullness of Christ.

It is not that when they reach this mark that God is done with them. It is then that He wants to use them for His work. And the purpose of this is given in verses 14-15 like this:

14 *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

15 *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ –*

Christian maturity has a purpose and that is the subject of our message this morning.

4) The purpose 4:14-16

So we have one more point to consider in this unit of Scripture that deals with unity. So we want to now look at the purpose of pastors edifying the body of Christ. This purpose is given in a negative and a positive sense. Let me read verses 11-16 to get the flow:

11 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*

12 *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

13 *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

And here comes our next point, the purpose of this edification is negatively:

14 *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

And now positively:

15 *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ –*

16 *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does*

its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

a) Negatively (14a)

Having seen what the aim is, we now want to see what the purpose is and we begin with the negative part first. There was a time when a liberal in the professing Christian church wrote a book called the power of positive thinking. It had a major impact on the Christian world. But when you center on positive thinking without the negative, you get the same thing you get when you have a battery with only a positive post. It won't work.

It is interesting if you go through the 10 commandments, 8 of the 10 are negative. There are two positives, keep the Sabbath and honor your father and mother. Observe something. Generally when you have those who only want to remain positive you have undiscerning, liberal people.

Lloyd Jones says, "The Apostle reminds us that there are certain things which we have to realize about ourselves. They are mainly negative, but they are absolutely essential. If we are not aware of these negatives we shall never arrive at the positive and the perfect. Once more I emphasize that it is our failure to realize these negatives that account for so much in the present state of the Christian church; and there we have a perfect portrayal of the Church today and her problems" (222).

So look at our verse. We are to become spiritually mature so:

14 *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in*

the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Note first that he says, "That we should no longer be children." Now why would Paul use the metaphor, 'children' for Christians? Notice that he says that we should no longer be children. That means we once were children. Every Christian starts as a child, spiritually. 1 Peter 2 says that as newborn babies, we should desire the true milk of the Word of God. One cannot begin as a mature Christian.

Hebrews 5:13-6:1a says:

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection...

So we all start as children. But we are to grow up! What do you have when you have those who are not taught all the things the Lord has commanded? You have Christians who are like children who are easily tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Do we have a lot of winds of doctrine today? Immature Christians are like children lured into taking candies from strangers. I spoke with a young man in town just recently, a very young believer, and he was already educated in the 5 heretical points of Calvinism and was adopting some of them. This is in a town that a few years ago did not even know what Calvinism was.

Jones points out that children are unstable. One minute they are at one thing and the next into another. They cannot generally stay with one thing for very long. That is true of young Christians. One minute they may laugh and the next cry. One minute the child plays happily and the next he is fighting.

A child can be caught up with one thing but you can distract him with very little effort. So it is with immature Christians. But we are to grow up spiritually. We are not to be blown around by every wind of doctrine.

You see, children need parents. They need oversight. They need to be guided by mature adults. They are not capable to stay on track by themselves. So we, as Christians, are to grow up.

Then a child likes to be entertained. Is that not a sign of modern Christianity? Entertainment in song and entertainment in preaching. Deep thinking is too taxing for many Christians. If this is required they soon want another preacher.

Let me give you a paragraph from Jones. He says: "Furthermore, the child likes entertainment and excitement. This was true of all of us in childhood. The child tends to have a secret antagonism even to its own parents, if they are parents worthy of the name, because they exercise discipline. The parents are always there, exercising a measure of restraint and enforcing certain principles. How much nicer is a favorite uncle who comes for a week occasionally and who gives us everything we want and refuses nothing! The uncle comforts us when we are chastened and is prepared to play with us and to entertain us and join us in various escapades. He seems to be much

better and kinder than father and mother" (229).

Then a child is ignorant. That means they do not know much. They cannot know much. So they must be taught. Many Christians who have been in church for 20 or 30 years are susceptible to all kinds of false teaching. They have not had pastors who taught them to think and discern.

So Paul says a pastor is to perfect the sheep so that they are no longer like children, tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. And today, every kind of wind of doctrine blows through the church. There are winds from every direction on the compass. Every virus flies through because of mass media. Millennials, those born say from 1980 to 1995 or so, are susceptible to new diseases. Today Calvinism is thriving, and mostly in male millennials, I understand. The disease goes deep when it hits. To argue with them is like arguing with evolutionists.

But that is not the only doctrine making its way through churches. One of the major reasons for that is for the past 80 or more years the church has neglected doctrine. Many times, those who taught doctrine in the past were so dry and boring that people tuned out. For those who were energetic and strong on doctrine, the danger was creating division. And so doctrine was neglected because doctrine, they said, divides.

It is my conclusion that doctrine should divide. What divides the Christian from the world? Doctrine! What divides the Christian from the cults? Doctrine! What divides Christians from the NAM? Doctrine! Pure doctrine should divide the false from

the true. But doctrine should also unite, and it should unite the true.

Lloyd Jones says, "The history of the Church shows clearly that her great and glorious periods, such as during and after the reformation, always follow the mighty preaching of doctrine." Later he says of doctrine, "This is the protein and the iron which give strength. The great doctrines of faith must be the basis of the Christian diet" (IV:205).

I checked online for modern false teachings in the church. One article spoke of 7 kinds of false teachers in the church today. Well, it is not only today. False teachers who professed to be Christians have been around since the church began.

Turn to Acts 20. Paul was traveling past Ephesus on the way back to Jerusalem. The church at Ephesus had just started not too much earlier. When Paul stopped in Miletus he called for the elders of Ephesus, those to whom this letter is written.

28 *"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

29 *"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.*

30 *"Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

31 *"Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

Let me read now from the article I mentioned:

"The history of Christ's church is inseparable from the history of Satan's attempts to destroy her. While difficult challenges have arisen from outside the church, the most dangerous have always been from within. For from within arise the false teachers, the peddlers of error who masquerade as teachers of truth. False teachers take on many forms, custom-crafted to times, cultures, and contexts. Here are seven of them you will find carrying out their deceptive, destructive work in the church today. Please note that while I have followed the biblical texts in describing them in masculine terms, each of these false teachers can as easily be female."

The writer then goes on to speak of the first kind of false teacher, the heretic. He says:

The Heretic

The Heretic is the most prominent and perhaps the most dangerous of the false teachers. Peter warned against him in his second letter. "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction" (2 Peter 2:1). The Heretic is the person who teaches what blatantly contradicts an essential teaching of the Christian faith. He is a gregarious figure, a natural leader teaching just enough truth to mask his deadly error. Yet in denying the faith and celebrating what is false, he leads

his followers from the safety of orthodoxy to the peril of heresy.

From the church's earliest days, she has been afflicted by the Heretic in his various forms. He continues his evil work today, sometimes by contradicting the truth and sometimes by adding to it. He may reframe the doctrine of the Trinity, as Arius did in the third century and as Oneness Pentecostals do today. He may, like Marcus Borg and other prominent scholars, deny the virgin birth or the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Like Jehovah's Witnesses, he may alter God's finished word, or like Mormons, he may add to it. Always, he boldly tampers with "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3).

Any Christian with any discernment today knows there are heretics of all kinds. Second he gave the charlatan. Here is what he says:

The Charlatan

The Charlatan is only interested in the Christian faith to the extent that it can fill his wallet.

The Charlatan is the person who uses Christianity as a means of personal enrichment. Paul charged Timothy to be on guard against him. "If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant

friction among people who are deprived in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain" (1 Timothy 6:3-5). The Charlatan is only interested in the Christian faith to the extent that it can fill his wallet. He uses his leadership position to benefit from others' wealth.

Simon Magus was motivated by the love of money when he tried to purchase the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:9-24). Since him, the Charlatan has appeared in many forms, always seeking prominence in the church so that he can live in extravagance. When Pope Leo X famously commissioned Tetzl to sell indulgences, the profits not only funded the reconstruction of St. Peter's Basilica, but also his luxurious lifestyle. In the 1990s, televangelist Robert Tilton brought in tens of millions of dollars each year by exploiting the vulnerable and gullible. Today Benny Hinn, Creflo Dollar, and a host of others peddle the prosperity gospel to enrich themselves from their followers' gifts.

Let me add that a charlatan is quack, a fraud or a sham. Turn to Acts 8. Many, many pastors are in the ministry for themselves. They seek glory for themselves by standing in front of people. It is the very same thing that Simon the sorcerer, who professed to get saved and got baptized wanted. We begin in verse 9:

9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people

of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,

10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God."

11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

Imagine the stories preachers would tell if this happened under their ministry! We go on in verse 14:

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the

Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,

19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

What was Simon seeking? Prestige! That is what he got out of his sorceries! Prestige is respect and admiration from others when they think you are above average among people. One pastor we had for a course on preaching one time said that pastors are glory hounds. Such a person preacher is a charlatan. Are these kinds of preachers around today? How many preachers, having led someone like this to the Lord, supposedly, would answer such a Simon like the Apostle Peter did? Verse 20:

20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!"

21 "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God."

22 "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you."

23 "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

Well, Simon lost his interest in prestige right pronto. Verse 24:

24 Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the

things which you have spoken may come upon me."

The third kind of false teacher he lists is the false prophet:

The Prophet

The Prophet claims to be gifted by God to speak fresh revelation outside of Scripture—new, authoritative words of prediction, teaching, rebuke, or encouragement. In reality, though, he is commissioned and empowered by Satan for the purpose of misleading and disrupting Christ's church. John offered an urgent warning about him. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). Christians must "test the spirits" to determine if they originate with the Holy Spirit or with a demonic spirit. Later, John declared that God has spoken fully and finally in Scripture and offered the most solemn warning against anyone who claims to bring revelation equal or contrary to Scripture. "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19).

The Prophet appears throughout the history of the church. As early as the second century, Montanus and his disciples claimed to speak on behalf of the Holy Spirit. In the nineteenth

century, Joseph Smith claimed to receive *The Book of Mormon* from the angel Moroni. Today the airwaves are chock-full of people claiming to speak in the name of God through the power of the Spirit. Personal prophecies are just a phone call away. Sarah Young, author of the top Christian bestseller of the decade, boldly claims that her book contains the very words of Jesus. *The Prophet* continues to speak, to lead astray.

When our forefathers came out of Catholicism, and new movements sprang up there were all kinds of prophets that stood up at the same time. Today there are all kinds of false prophets. The fourth kind of false teacher is one the writer calls the abuser. He writes:

The Abuser

The Abuser uses his position of leadership to take advantage of other people. Usually, he takes advantage of them to feed his (physical) sexual lust, though he may also desire power. Both Peter and Jude were aware of the Abuser's lechery: "And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed" (2 Peter 2:2). "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ" (Jude 4). The Abuser claims he is tending souls, but his true interest is ravishing bodies. He works his way into women's lives, confidence, homes, and beds. When he is not pursuing illicit sexual pleasure, he may be domineering people to gain power, abusing them on

his path to prominence. He does this in the name of ministry, with the claim of God's anointing. He unapologetically uses and abuses others to feed his lusts.

Tragically, the history of the Christian faith features countless Abusers. Even in the church's earliest days, there were sex cults and other depraved perversions of the faith. For centuries, the papacy was little more than a corrupt power struggle. Today it seems that every week, we learn of another leader who has been found guilty of sexual sin with men, women, or even children. Meanwhile, we hear sad tales of survivors who have been abused and cast aside by a leader craving power. The Abuser carries on his work.

The writer then speaks fifth of the divider. He says:

The Divider

The Divider uses false doctrine to disrupt or destroy a church. He gleefully divides brother from brother and sister from sister. Jude warned about him: "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life" (Jude 18-21). The Divider is devoid of the Holy Spirit whose first fruit is love and whose special work is holding believers together in the bond

of peace (Galatians 5:22, Ephesians 4:3). This false teacher brings strife, not love. He generates factions, not unity. He desires discord, not harmony.

Congregations and denominations have often been splintered by the Divider as he promulgates his lies. He sometimes makes a minor doctrine into the mark of Christian maturity, causing factions to arise within the body. He may slyly introduce unbiblical doctrines, or he may undermine the ordained leadership. He does it all for the perverse satisfaction that comes with destruction.

Sixth, he speaks of the tickler:

The Tickler

The Tickler is the false teacher who cares nothing for what God wants and everything for what men want. He is the man-pleaser rather than the God-pleaser. Paul thought of him as the ear-tickler: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). The Tickler craves popularity and praise from the world. To maintain his follower's respect, he preaches only the parts of the Bible they deem acceptable. Therefore, he speaks much of happiness but little of sin, much of heaven but nothing of hell. He gives them only what they want to hear. He preaches a partial gospel which is no gospel at all.

He preaches an empty gospel to a packed out church.

The Tickler is as old as the church itself. In the nineteenth century he was Henry Ward Beecher, and in the twentieth he was Norman Vincent Peale and Robert Schuller. Today he is Joel Osteen, pastor of the largest church in America, who is known equally for his toothy smile and his vacuous content. He preaches an empty gospel to a packed out church. Like the false prophets of Jeremiah's day, he and the thousands like him say, "'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace" (Jeremiah 6:14).

The seventh and last one he gives is the spectator.

The Speculator

Finally, the Speculator is the one obsessed with novelty, originality, or speculation. The author of Hebrews warned his church of these "strange teachings," while Paul told Timothy to protect the church against any "different doctrine" (Hebrews 13:9, 1 Timothy 1:3). Teaching focused on speculation displaces the sure and steady doctrine of Scripture. The Speculator tosses aside the bulk of the Bible's content and the weight of the Bible's emphasis in order to obsess about matters that are trivial or novel. He grows weary of the old truths and pursues respectability through originality.

Today, as in every age, the Speculator obsesses about the End Times, and somehow his failed predictions dissuade neither himself nor his followers.

Recently we saw him obscuring the clear message of Scripture to search for hidden codes in Scripture. Sometimes he plants himself in academia, where one of his recent masterpieces is a re-imagined God who is unable to see and know the future. Well did Paul label the Speculator a contradictory, irreverent babbling (1 Timothy 6:20-21).

The writer concludes like this:

Conclusion

Satan's greatest ambassadors are not pimps, politicians, or power-brokers, but pastors. His priests do not peddle a different religion, but a deadly perversion of the true one. (PS Someone has said that discernment is not the ability to discern between right and wrong, but to discern between right and almost right. I continue the quote...) His troops do not make a full-out frontal assault, but work as agents, sneaking into the opposing army. Satan's tactics are studied, clever, predictable, effective. Therefore, we must always remain vigilant. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:15-16a) end quote.

When we studied the parable of the city with the wide and the narrow gate, we found in the city false teachers directing those who wanted to flee the city of destruction and they directed these folk to the wrong gate. That has always been the case. I came across another article that gave a list of

names to watch for. I want to give you those as well.

<https://www.challies.com/articles/7-false-teachers-in-the-church-today/>

This article gives the name of the false teacher first and then the heresy with which this person is connected with. So let me explain a few things before we go to that. It is very helpful to grasp some of these terms in our day.

First, the emergent church. You could put into this its forerunner, the seeker friendly church. So let me ask, what is the emergent church? Someone has said defining the emergent church is like trying to nail jello to the wall. The site gotquestions.org gives the most helpful definition I have heard. This site said the emergent church is basically the church fitting to the changes of the culture. So when rock music is in, you rock in church. I need not tell you that such a church kills doctrine, if not in its preaching, then it kills it in its practice.

Then we have what is called 'progressives.' What are Christian progressives? If you understand Canadian Liberals in politics, you get the idea. If you understand modern US democrats, you get a better idea of Christian progressives. To quote gotquestions.org again, it says: "Progressive Christianity is a recent movement in Protestantism that focuses strongly on [social justice](#) and [environmentalism](#) and often includes a revisionist (or non-traditional) view of the Scriptures."

Then there is prosperity theology. Prosperity theology can't accept that Christians are bound to suffer. They believe being poor is a

lack of faith and a prophet's main job is to predict the future, not edify, exhort and encourage.

Then there is the related 'word of faith' movement. What you do is find binding promises in the Word of God. Then claim that promise and God is bound by His Word to heal you or whatever else you need. One article I read said this:

"The way to great health and prosperity, it is taught, is by their speaking or confessing their belief in what they feel are ironclad promises from God. This profession, according to Word of Faith teachings, binds God to fulfill his promise and puts him under the control of a human who speaks in faith."

And before I read the list of names this article gave with regard to false teachers let me give what he says before he gives the list. He writes:

"Why is it that so few Christian appear concerned about the existence of False Prophets? From the way many of us talk about the subject you might wonder whether we believe any teacher deserves to be so categorized. It is as if the only heresy left in our culture is to call someone a heretic. But why? Confrontation may be too uncomfortable for some. Calling someone a heretic may seem too judgmental.

Many simply follow the crowd, rather than follow the Bible, unwilling and unequipped to challenge the faith they were raised in. Maybe it is too difficult to think this deeply ... but Jesus said, "the way is easy that leads to destruction" but it is the difficult "narrow path that leads to life". Christians must, therefore, arm

themselves against false prophets .. and recognizing who they are requires knowledge. And knowledge requires a study of God's word.

"Jesus, the apostles Paul, Peter, and John all repeatedly warned such men would rise up among us, and lead many astray, even within the visible church. They warned that not only would there be many False Teachers, there would be many followers of them as well ...people "to suit their own desires ...will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." (2 Tim 4:3). Sadly, very few people do their homework when considering their own pastors, so the wolves have taken advantage of this fact to keep multitudes in their blinded condition. Obviously we should not easily call other people a heretic, but if they publicly teach doctrine long recognized by the church as false, then we ought to call it out.

"Here is a list of the more obvious heretics/false teachers to be marked & avoided: (not exhaustive)" End quote.

I want to read this list of names so that if you hear or read it on some book cover you may be warned. See if you recognize any names as I read:

[Angley, Ernest](#) [Word of Faith]

Armstrong, Karen [Progressive]

[Arnott, John](#) [leader Toronto "Blessing", Latter Rain]

Bakker, Jamie [Emergent Church]

[Bakker, Jay](#) [Emergent Church, neo-liberal]

[Bakker, Jim](#) [Prosperity Theology]

[Bell, Rob](#) [Progressive Christian, Emergent Church]

[Borg, Marcus J.](#) [Liberal Christian]

Burke, Spencer [Emergent Church]

[Boyd, Gregory A.](#) [Open Theist]

Camping, Harold [false prophet]

[Campolo, Tony](#) [Progressive Christian]

Chalke, Steve [rejects penal substitution and biblical
Inerrancy; supports same sex unions]

Cho, Paul or David Yonggi [Word of Faith, pastor of largest
church in the world]

[Claiborne, Shane](#) [Progressive Christian]

Clement, Kim [New Apostolic Reformation]

Copeland, Kenneth and Gloria [Word of Faith]

[John Dominic Crossan](#) [Liberal Theology]

Crouch, Paul Jr. [promotes Prosperity heresies via TBN]

Crouch, Paul Sr. [Properity Teacher, TBN founder]

Crowder, John [New Mystics, Sons of Thunder]

Deere, Jack [Latter Rain, Wimberite]

[Dollar, Creflo](#) [Prosperity Teacher]

[Dowd, Michael](#) [Progressive Christian]

Eddy, Mary Baker ["Christian" Science; mind sciences]

[Evans, Rachel Held](#) [Progressive "Christian", Political Idolatry]

[Furtick, Steven](#) [narcissistic "gospel" devoid of much Biblical
truth]

[Hagee, John](#) [False Prophet, Uber-Pentecostal,
Ultra-Dispensationalist]

[Hagin, Kenneth](#) Jr./Sr. [Prosperity]

[Hatmaker, Jen](#) [works righteousness, progressive, affirms
same-sex marriage"]

[Hick, John](#) [Progressive Christian]

[Hinn, Benny](#) [Prosperity Teacher, Uber Charismatic]

Hybels, Bill [Seeker Sensitive]

Jacobs, Cindy [Prosperity]

[Jakes, TD](#) [Oneness Pentecostalism]

John Pavlovitz [Progressive activist; withholds gospel from
persons identifying as LGBTQ]

[Johnson, Bill](#) [New Apostolic Reformation, Kenosis, Word of
Faith] - [more..](#)

[Kimball, Dan](#) [Emergent Church]

[Lane Craig, William](#) [Trinitarian Errors, Partialism,
Neo-Apollinarianism, Molinism]

Long, Bishop Eddie [Prosperity Uber Charismatic]

McClure, Joel [Emergent Church]

[Mclaren, Brian](#) [Emergent Church]

McManus, Erwin [Mystic Contemplative Prayer Movement]

Merritt, Jonathan [Pelagian, Progressive Christian]

Merton, Thomas [Trappist monk and Catholic mystic]

[Miller, Donald](#) [Progressive Christian]

[Meyer, Joyce](#) [Prosperity Preacher]

Nouwen, Henry [Contemplative Mysticism, Emerging Church]

Osteen, Joel [cotton candy theology, bible compromiser, name it & claim it, soft moralism]

Pagitt, Doug [Emergent Church]

Peale, Norman Vincent [positive confession liberal]

Pearson, Carlton [Universalism]

Popes, all [idolaters, antiChrists]

Price, Fred KC [Prosperity Preacher, Name it & claim it]

Prince, Joseph [Prosperity, Antinomianism]

Roberts, Oral [deceased, false prophet]

Robertson, Pat [divination, false prophet, TBN]

Rohr, Richard [Progressive Christian]

Roth, Sid [mystic, NAR]

Russell, Charles Taze [founder Jehovah's Witnesses]

Rutherford, Judge [past president of Jehovah's Witnesses]

Scandrette, Mark [Emergent Church]

Schuler, Robert [Peale clone, liberal theology]

Spong, John Shelby (1931-)

Stanley, Andy [Marcionite, carnal Christianity]

Sweet, Leonard [Emergent Church]

Tenney, Tommy [Oneness Pentecostalism, Charismatic] Vines,
Matthew [Liberal]

Wallis, Jim [Progressive Christian, Left-Wing Political
idolatry]

Warren, Rick [Emergent Purpose Driven]

White, Ellen G. [founder False Prophet Seventh Day Advents]

White, Paula [prosperity theology]

White, Todd [Read himself into
bible, False prophet, False healing,
prosperity Gospel]

White, Tom [Latter Rain; spiritual war network]

Wimber, John [deceased, Kansas City Prophets/Latter Rain]

Womack, Andrew [Prosperity]

Wright, Jeremiah [Liberation Theology, Bible denier]

Young, William Paul [Progressive Christian]

<https://www.monergism.com/modern-day-false-teachers>

Now we may think that these names would not be found in homes in our community, but many are here. I expect we would be surprised if we saw the names of authors that are in our community and the liberalism of those materials is seeping into homes and churches.

So there are misleading preachers. Misleading books. And besides these we have misleading Bible versions and people are drinking in thoughts distorted from their original intent.

Are professing Christians tossed about by every wind of doctrine today? Means of promulgating false teaching have never been more effective than today.

CONCL: So we conclude for this morning. When God began the new work of the Church after Christ ascended, Ephesians 4:11 says:

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

And God had a purpose for providing pastors and teachers. It was, verse 12:

*12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

Now this edifying of the body of Christ had this further goal in mind. Verse 13:

*13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of
the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

And the purpose of this was, verse 14:

*14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and
carried about with every wind of doctrine,*

Today we are bombarded on every side, as in no other age, with every wind of doctrine. It is not that the Church has not always had this problem. It did. It has been like this from the time the Church was born. In the days of the reformation the printing press made it possible to duplicate tracts and books in a much faster way than ever before that. That was due to the printing press. False material could be multiplied too. But today, with the internet, the spread of every wind of doctrine is faster than ever before.