



A Healthy Church

Ephesians 4:1-16

We are entering a 'new phase' – (preached Dec 2017 as I was preparing to leave)

New elders –


Changing Preacher roles....

New members –

New NEEDS

New problems !

→ Unity be diligent to PRESERVE...




Unity

Be DILIGENT
To preserve
The unity of the Spirit

It TAKES WORK

³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

→ Unity is NOT just the absence of animosity



Unity

Unity is NOT JUST
the absence of
animosity -

Unity is NOT JUST the absence of animosity -
It involves 'fellowship' (working together) – attitude –

It takes Character



Character!

- Humility
- Gentleness
 - (meek, self-control)
- Patience
- Tolerance

¹ Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

² with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, showing **tolerance** for one another in love,

→ THERE IS ONE BODY The UNITY from God's perspective exists.. WE TO MAINTAIN

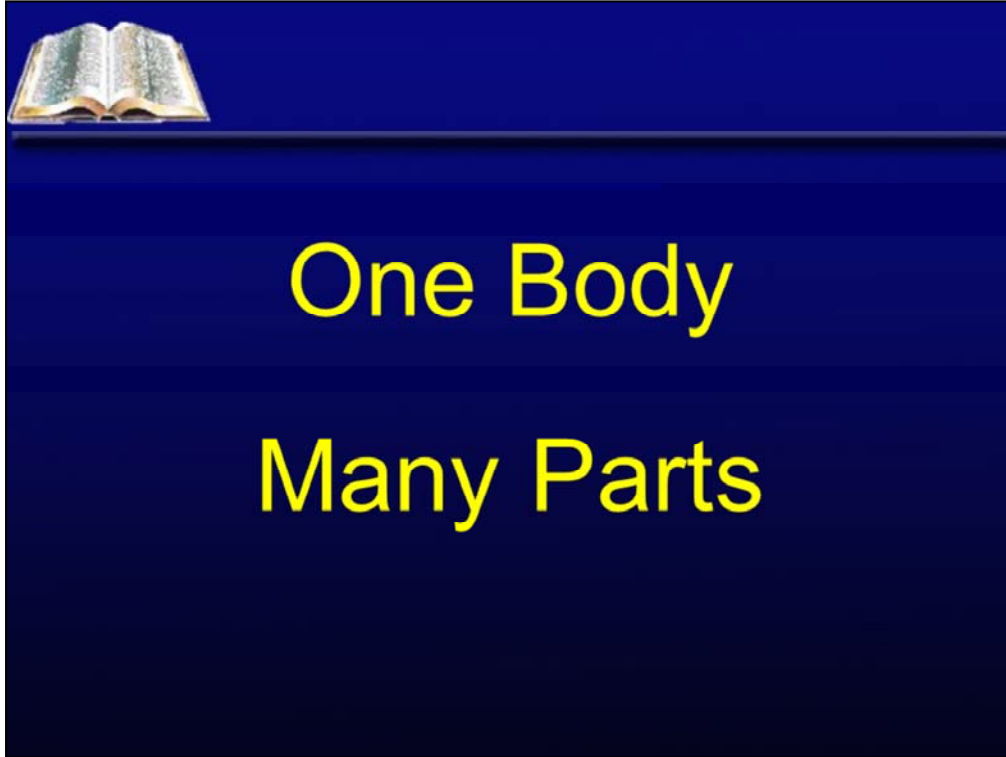


⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;*

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

→ ONE Body – Many part – different abilities--



→ ONE Body – Many part – different abilities–

→ ILLUSTRATED with human body -



Parts is PARTS

TOGETHER they make a body!

→ GIFTS to help the BODY – gifts of leadership 4:11



Gifts of Leadership

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors / Teachers

Gifts of Leadership to accomplish such unity

11 And He gave some as *apostles*, and some as *prophets*, and some as *evangelists*, and some as *pastors and teachers*,

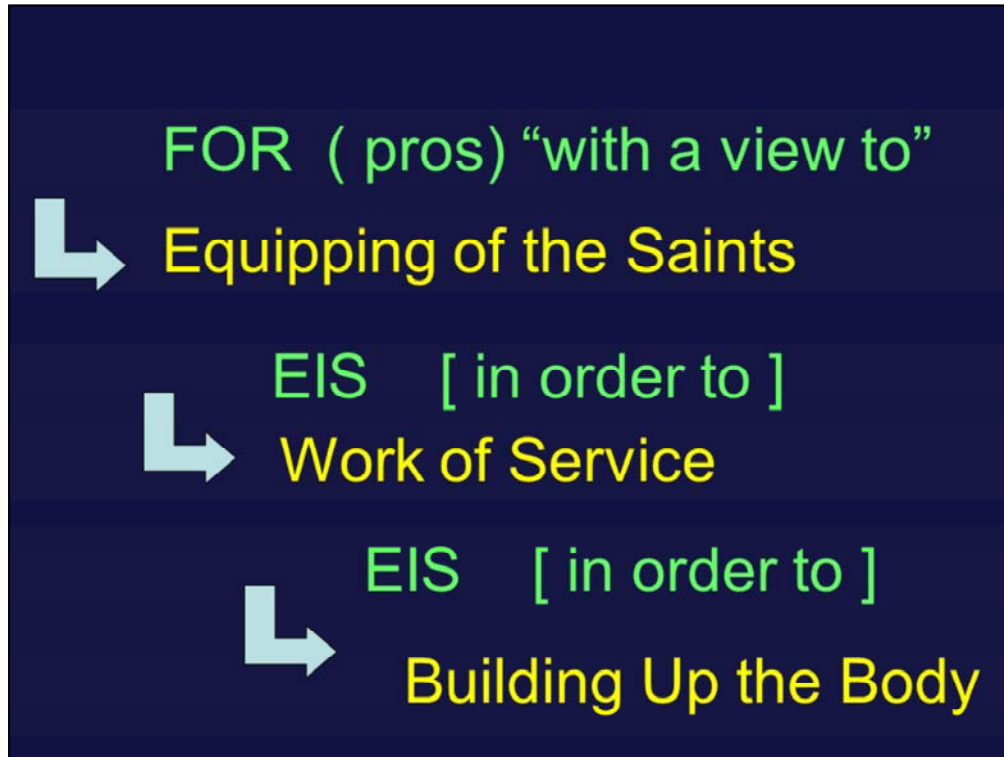
Apostles

Prophets

Evangelists

Pastors / Teachers

→ PURPOSE



Gifts for a purpose

¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

¹² **for** the equipping of the saints

for the work of service,

to the building up of the body of Christ;

→ **Goal – Mature / grown up /**



Vs. 13-15



Mature (Grown up)



(Not children)

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Result of Fulfilled Roles


¹⁴ As a result, **we are no longer to be children**, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Accept responsibilities –

Doing the 'hard things' –

→ **Hence vs. 16**



Vs. 16

- Whole Body –
- Every Joint –
- Each Individual Part

Gro

Every Part Working Properly

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together ***by what every joint supplies***, according to the proper working of ***each individual part***, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Whole body - the 'community' of believers – a 'family' – a 'body'

Every Joint / Each individual Part

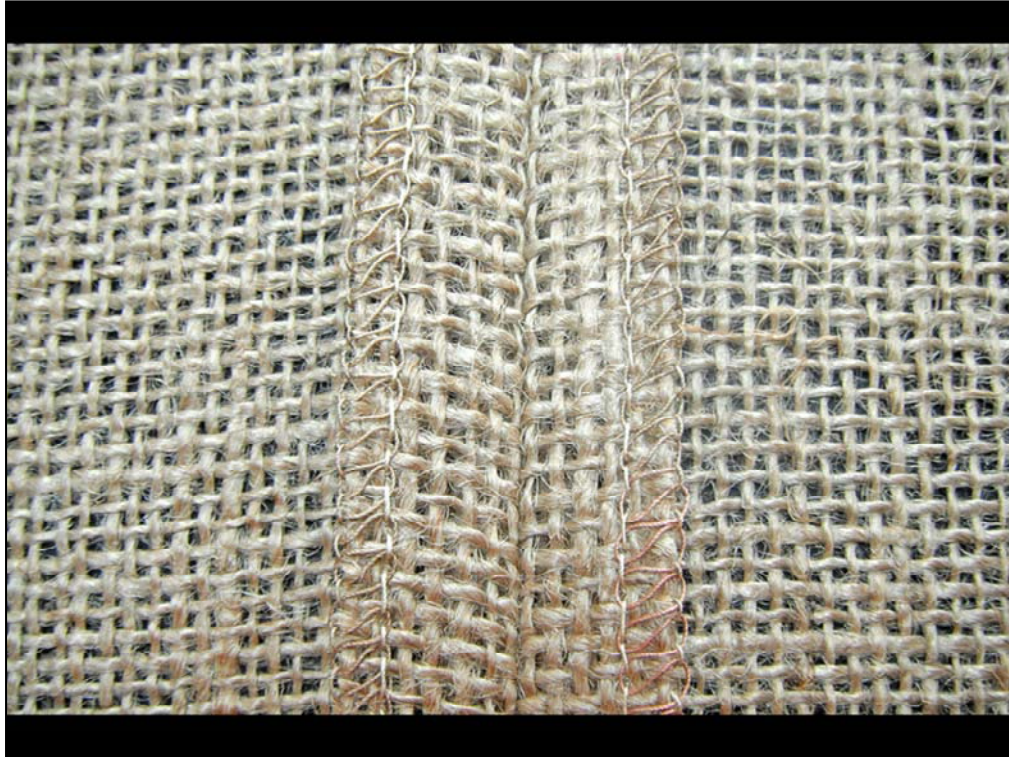
→ ***Fitted and held together – like 'cloth woven'***



Fittly Framed together –
Woven into a 'whole' –
String vs. Fabric

Like 'yarn' – it is not cloth until woven TOGETHER

→ **Completed = woven together**



Woven –

EVERY 'fiber' = every joint, every part –

Joined together –

Do YOU feel like this? Does this describe your relationship to the other people here?

→ **Such maturity that allows for such unity -**



Growth Areas

- SELF –
- Marriage –
- Church
- Job
- Community / Government

Growth of CHARACTER

SELF –

Marriage –

Church

Job

Community / Government

→ Being joined FIRST to the LORD – believe / baptized –

THEN join self to the disciples –



Acts 9:18, 19, 26

- **Joined TO THE LORD**
- **With the disciples**
- **Join self to disciples**

Joined TO THE LORD

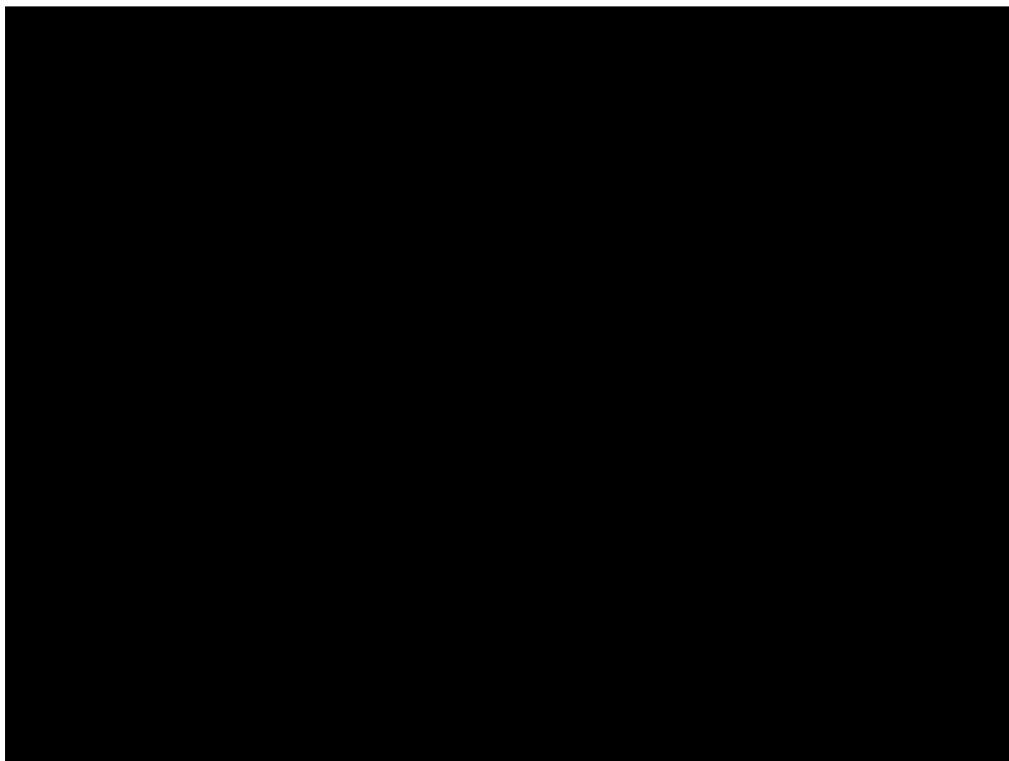
Baptized – Acts 9:18

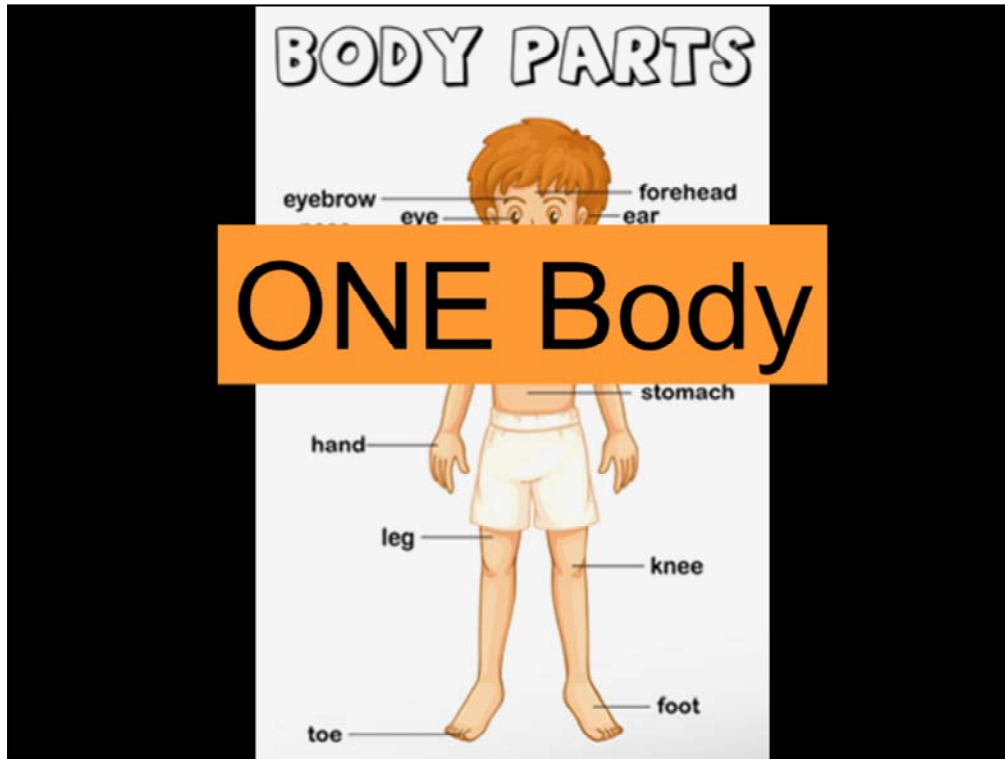
Was WITH the disciples – Acts 9:19

Then to Jerusalem:

Join self to disciples – Acts 9:26

When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples





ONE body – many parts