

THE CHURCH AND ITS CALLING

THE MEASURE OF THE CHURCH
GETTING IT RIGHT AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE HEAD AND HIS BODY

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

EPHESIANS 1.22-23

- ▶ Colossians and Ephesians are both “prison epistles”—written while the Apostle Paul was in Roman custody, awaiting his hearing before Caesar. Together they teach us how to relate to one another as the body of Christ, and to Christ as the Head of the body. The two words that define and measure us are ⁽¹⁾ Christ (how like Christ are we) and ⁽²⁾ others (how engaged are we in building up one another in Christ).

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,
the pastors and teachers,
to equip his people for works of service,
so that the body of Christ may be built up
until we all reach unity in the faith
and in the knowledge of the Son of God
and become mature,
attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Speaking the truth in love,
we will grow to become in every respect
the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.
From him the whole body,
joined and held together by every supporting ligament,
grows and builds itself up in love,
as each part does its work.*

EPHESIANS 4.11-13, 15-16

*Do not lie to each other,
since you have taken off your old self with its practices
and have put on the new self,
which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
Here there is no Gentile or Jew,
circumcised or uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave or free,
but Christ is all, and is in all.*

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with—
compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

*Bear with each other and forgive one another
if any of you has a grievance against someone.*

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

*And over all these virtues put on love,
which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you were called to peace.*

And be thankful.

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly
as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit,
singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

MARKS & MEASURES

All that he does in us is designed to make us a mature church for his pleasure, until we become a source of praise to him—glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw.

EPHESIANS 5.27 TPT

- ▶ Christ is recognized by each one as the Head of the body; his will and purposes are the priority of every member.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

- ▶ Spiritual maturity is the collective and focused priority of everyone.

... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

- ▶ Each member is intentionally, consistently, and deeply engaged in the Word and in the spiritual growth of one another.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom ...

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- ▶ Differences, not sameness, are valued as a testimony to unbelievers of the greater identity and unity that the body possesses in Christ.

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

- ▶ The image by which the church is seen and known by others is nothing more and nothing less than the “clothing of Christ.”

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- ▶ Differences and conflicts are resolved in the heart, and in submission to Christ the Head.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

- ▶ Accountability to one another and by one another is expected and practiced, and is never threatening because a spirit of servant-love rules each heart.

Speaking the truth in love . . . whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

- ▶ Worship with one another that is Christ-centered and “Word-rich” is prioritized as indispensable to honoring Christ and building up the body.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

- ▶ Every person in the church recognizes their place and role in the body and serves with wholehearted love to the honor of Christ, the Head.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.