

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Ephesians 4:7-16

Lesson 8

In the previous verses of Ephesians 4, Paul has emphasized the unity of the church that can be attributed to the beliefs we have in common. Now, beginning with verse seven, he speaks of the differences of each member which should also, when used properly, lead to unity. As you study these verses, may you be stirred to use the gifts God has given you, that you may be doing your part in God's plan for unity.

DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 4:7-16

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. Ephesians 4:7-16 has been divided into two sections. List below the subjects(s) covered in each section.

Verses 7-10

Verses 11-16

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God and Jesus

New to this lesson: *body, ascended, descended, and gave*

Term of conclusion: *therefore*

Contrast: *but*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Ephesians 4:7-16. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them. You do not need to mark every word that refers them – only those that you feel are significant.

3. Make a list of what God has *given* using the verses containing the word *gave*.

DAY TWO: Read Ephesians 4:7-10

1. The first six verses of Ephesians 4 speak of the things we have in common as Christians. Notice verse 7 begins with a word of contrast. What is it?
2. As we have studied, the church is one body, and every member is to strive to keep the oneness and unity of the Spirit. But believers are not only a unity, they are a diversity. There are differences between believers. What are those differences? They are gifts, special abilities given by God which are to be used to strengthen believers and to reach the world and minister to it. Gifts—spiritual gifts given by God—are the subject of the next verses. Before we look at these differences, answer the following using Ephesians 4:7.
 - a. Who is Paul writing to?
 - 1.) How does this refute the claims of some that only certain believers have gifts?
 - b. What has been given to *each one of us*?
 - 1.) This *grace* is God's enablement to use the gift(s) we have been *given*. According to what has this *grace* been *given*?
3. Look up the following verses and record any light they shed on the subject of *gifts*:

Matthew 25:15

Romans 12:3,6

1 Corinthians 12:4,7

 - a.) Which of these verses would you like to understand in a deeper way?
 - 1.) What would you like to know?

4. These *gifts* came at a great cost. According to verse 8, what two things did Jesus accomplish when He ascended on high?
 - a. Colossians 2:15 (NLT) adds to our understanding: *In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ. Share one thought about what this victory over evil means to you.*
 - b. Jesus *gave gifts to men*. As a conquering hero takes from those he conquers and gives to his own people, Jesus gives gifts to each believer. How do you like being on the winning side; being one to whom God gives gifts?

5. According to verse 10, why did Christ *ascend*?
 - a. Paul has already expressed this in Ephesians 1:23. What did he write about Jesus in this verse?

6. Seeing the price Jesus paid to be able to give *gifts* to us, how should we regard His *gifts*?
 - a. In what way should a proper understanding of the diversity of Spiritual gifts promote *unity*?

DAY THREE: Read Ephesians 4:11

1. In Ephesians 4:11 Paul lists five spiritual *gifts*. Define them by matching the *gifts* with the proper definition.

One who speaks God's Word	P_____
One who explains God's Word	T_____
One who is sent with a commission	A_____
One who shares the gospel	E_____
One who shepherds God's people	P_____

2. Paul's list is not exhaustive. From the following verses, list other spiritual *gifts*.

Romans 12:6-8

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11,28

3. What one word in Ephesians 4:11 reveals that not everyone receives the same spiritual *gifts*?

DAY FOUR: Read Ephesians 4:12-13

1. Ephesians 4:12 shows us two purposes for God giving spiritual *gifts*. What are they?

2. The New International Version translates Ephesians 4:12 as: *to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*. Who is called for works of service?
 - a. Each believer is given different gifts because each believer is called to a different service. Why is it important that each believer believe this?

 - b. What could happen when a believer does not believe this?

 - c. The New King James Version uses the phrase *work of ministry* rather than *works of service*. How does the term *service* help you to understand this is something for you as well as those who might be called to an "official" ministry?

3. Scan the gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11. Notice, they are all speaking *gifts*. Choose two of these gifts and share how you have been *built up* by someone who used one of these *gifts*.

4. According to Ephesians 4:13, how long will these *gifts* be necessary?
 - a. Look up this verse in another translation. What does it say?

Challenge: Define the word *perfect* as it is used in verse 13.

5. Ephesians 4:13 speaks of Christian maturity. Describe a mature Christian.
 - a. How does the proper use and reception of spiritual *gifts* lead to Christian maturity?

6. As human beings, we are susceptible to misusing spiritual *gifts*. Share an example of how this might occur.
 - a. In what way is not using a spiritual *gift* a misuse of that gift?

7. What was Paul's exhortation to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14 and 2 Timothy 1:6?

- a. Why is this kind of exhortation sometimes necessary, not just for Timothy, but for many believers?

DAY FIVE: Read Ephesians 4:14-16

1. Ephesians 4:14 provides another reason for becoming mature in our faith. What is it?

- a. What phrases in this verse describe the instability of children?

1.) As believers, how can we be like this?

2. We can be *tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine* by who and what? verse 14

- a. These *men* are not confined to unbelievers outside the church, but are specifically referring to those who would claim to be believers who are inside the church. How are they described in:

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

2 Peter 2:18

- b. Unfortunately, Satan even uses true believers to cause disunity in the church. What do you think might be signs of *deceitful plotting*?

3. We have seen in Ephesians 4:14 what we are to avoid. What does verse 15 tell us to do?

- a. Explain *speaking the truth in love* as you understand it.

4. The last phrase of Ephesians 4:15 reminds us that Christ is the head of the *body* (the church). Using verse 16, answer the following questions:
 - a. From whom is the *whole body joined and knit together*?

Note: the joints are the points of union where the supply passes from one member (or part) of the body to another. The supply given is in proportion to the need of that member to do its job.

- b. For the body *to work effectively*, what must *every part do*?
- c. What happens to the body when *every part does its share*?
- d. What does the body do to *itself* when it *grows*?

DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 4:7-16

1. The emphasis of the first six verses of Ephesians 4 is what we have in common as believers. Why do you think Paul chose to stop and talk about spiritual *gifts*?

2. From what you have learned in this lesson, describe God's purpose in giving spiritual *gifts*.

3. In what ways can spiritual *gifts* be used to divide a church?

4. How have you been you challenged by these verses to be a part of the answer to *unity* rather than the problem?

*Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly.
As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow,
so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

- Ephesians 4:16 NLT