

November 10, 2024
Ephesians 4:7-16
"A Part Of A Whole"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

After discussing the basis of unity, Paul now analyzed the means of preserving unity of the body by the dispersion of various gifts among **all** believers.

Error perverts its adherents in subtle moral ways. The solution=TRUTH IN LOVE. Faithfulness to truth=purity and nobleness of motive.

You're not full grown when you hear a little woo woo and swallow it hook line & sinker.

Apostles includes the special office of the 12 but also recognizes those such as Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, and Apollos for example. Apostle means, one sent, an authoritative delegate. Their teaching was foundational. **Prophets** were another informative group. **Evangelists**, those engaged in spreading the gospel, kind of like present day missionaries. **Pastors and teachers** are governed by one article, therefore listed together. There are many gifts listed in the Bible that are given to believers: **Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:4-6; I Corinthians 12:4-6**. What's your gift?

Christ is the One into whom all Christians grow and out of whom the church consolidates itself in love. Think about this imagery of the miracle in the womb as the fetus, little one, grows. Got to wonder if Paul consulted doctor Luke on this one. When each part is functioning properly that body receives the support it needs. To be a member of the body of Christ, let no man be anything for himself, but let us all be whatever we are for the benefit of each other. *Loosely quoted from John Calvin.*

Application:

From this passage one understands that a new believer is safe only in a church where the shepherd of the flock speaks TRUTH in love. How can this new believer be sure they are in the right place? Number one, new believer, you were indwelt with the Holy Spirit the instant you believed in Jesus as Savior. He will direct your path. Pray about where to go for sound doctrine. Read the Word to begin your understanding of TRUTH, the Scriptures are totally reliable. Read **II Timothy 3:10-17**. No worries! If you go to a church and the Bible is not read and preached, move on. When you enter a fellowship and there is a sweet atmosphere of love between the brethren and the pastor stands in the pulpit preaching the Bible in TRUTH and love, stay right there as long as you sense the Lord's leading to do so.