

Ephesians 4:1-16

Intro

- Share your summary of Ephesians 4:1-16.
- What is Paul's revelation? (*Look at 1 on 1 #1 for the answer*)

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

- How do you see Paul's revelation in verses 1-6?
- What imagery is Paul hinting at when he talks about "building" in verses 12 and 16? (Answer: Temple imagery. Read Ephesians 2:19-22 as a reference to this.)
- What does it mean that Christ is the "head" of the Church? (Verse 15) What imagery is Paul giving regarding a head and a body?

Paul is giving the imagery of a body that is growing and a head that remains still. Imagine a three year old... They have big heads! Their body is not proportional to their head. In the same way, the Body of Christ is not perfect like Christ is. However, we are trying to grow together to meet the proportion of Christ. He is our standard that we are growing into.

- What does Paul mean in verse 13?

As Paul said in Ephesians 2:19-22, all Christians are being built together to become a temple for God's Spirit. When Paul talks about something being "filled" or "full," he is using the common language that the Old Testament uses to refer to God's presence and glory filling the temple. Just like the example of the kid with the big head, Paul is saying that the Christian "temple" (the entire Body of Christ) is to be filled with God to the measure that the physical temple was filled with God. Ideally, we should look at Christ and see the fullness of God, and we should look at the Church and also see the fullness of God. To "attain the full measure of Christ" means that we, as the Church, would grow into and mature to the standard of Christ.

- How do false teachings distract the Body of Christ from "attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ?" (Verse 14)
- How does "speaking truth in love" contribute to the Body of Christ "attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ?" (Verse 15)
- What does "attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" have to do with Paul's revelation?

Concluding Questions:

- What are five practical ways that you can contribute to the Body of Christ "attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ?"
- What are ways that you personally distract the Body of Christ from "attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ?"

Further Study Opportunities (Optional)

- Where do you see the concept of God's "chosen" people?
- Where do you see the concept of "inheritance?"
- Where do you see Paul's "temple" language?
- What does Ephesians 4:8 mean? - Ephesians 4:8 quotes Psalm 68:18 word for word... except for the last line. Psalm 68:18 says God receives gifts whereas Ephesians 4:8 says that God gives gifts. Psalm 68 is poetry about God rescuing His people from evil. Psalm 68 uses the exodus story as an example, saying that God has led the people out of captivity and slavery and, therefore, he is worthy to receive gifts. But then, Psalm 68 ends with God leading His people out of spiritual slavery, and instead of God receiving gifts, He continues His generosity by gifting His people with "power and strength." In Ephesians, Paul was summarizing the rest of the poem, not "misquoting" or "changing" Scripture. Also note that Paul's prayer for his readers was that they would be "strengthened with power" from God (Ephesians 3:16). Paul had this Psalm in his mind as he wrote this letter.

Do For Next Week:

- Read Ephesians 1-5:20 in one sitting.
- Give a 1-2 sentence summary of Ephesians 4:17-5:20.