

INTRODUCTION

- * We are considering "The Marks of a Healthy Church." Over the past two weeks, we began focusing upon the Unity of the Church.
- * First we saw that Paul's teaching on unity was based upon the exhortation that he gave in verse 1: that believers should "walk worthy of the calling with which we were called." This "calling" was to be conformed to the image of Christ. Christ's desire for His followers were for them to be one in order that the world might know that He and the Father were one. Hence, as we are conformed to the image of Christ, we will demonstrate His desires for the assembly. That desire for unity will be revealed in our conduct and reflected in our doctrine.
- * Last week we saw how our call to be conformed to the image of Christ should be the common goal of the body of Christ. Jesus prayed for His followers to be made perfect in oneness. Hence, the desire - collectively - to be conformed to the image of Christ is THE mark of perfection to which we should strive toward and be participating in. That is best accomplished when the body is functioning synergistically.
- * As we saw last week, God worked out the process by which the church can/should accomplish this goal - 1) The Lord Endows the Body; 2) The Leaders Equip the Body; and 3) The Members Edify the Body. Today, we want to continue to examine this process through a consideration of Paul's teaching to the church of Corinth.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH (Ephesians 4:1-6)****II. THE SYNERGY OF THE CHURCH (Ephesians 4:7-16)****III. THE DIVERSITY OF THE CHURCH (1 Corinthians 12:1-31)****A. The Distribution of the Gifts (v. 1-11)**

1. THE S _____ (v. 4-6)
 - a. God the Spirit - The Distinction of Gifts (v. 4, 11)
 - b. God the Son - The Distinction of Ministries - *diakonia* (v. 5; Matthew 20:28)
 - c. God the Father - The Distinction of Activities - *energeia* (v. 6; Eph 4:6)
2. THE R _____ (v. 7a; cf. Ephesians 4:7)
3. THE P _____ (v. 7b)
4. THE C _____ (v. 8-10; cf. Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11)
 - a. Gifts of Insight - Wisdom/Knowledge (v. 8)
 - b. Gifts of Faith - Faith/Healing/Miracles/Prophecy/Discernment (v. 9; Acts 3:1-7; 8:18-20; Acts 5:1-12; 1 John 4:1)
 - c. Gifts of Languages - Speaking/Interpreting (v. 10; cf. Acts 2:4,11; 10:46; Rev 5:9; 7:9; 10:11; 11:9; cf. John 1:38, 42; 9:7; Heb 7:2)

B. The Cooperation of the Gifts (v. 1-11)

1. THE I _____ NATURE OF THE BODY (v. 12-13,27)
 - a. We Are _____ (v. 12-13; Col 2:18-19; Eph 1:22-23; 2:11-16; Gal 3:26-28; Col 3:9-11; Rev 5:8-10)
 - b. We Are _____ (cf. Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 4:13-25; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4)
2. THE I _____ NATURE OF THE BODY (v. 12, 14-31)
 - a. The C _____ of the Body is by the Will of God (v. 14-19, 28-30)
 - b. The C _____ of the Body is for the God of All (cf. 14-19, 28-30)

IV. THE EXCELLENCY OF THE CHURCH (1 Corinthians 12:20-14:40)**INTROSPECTION**

- * HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ROLE WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH?
- * DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS GIFTED YOU? ... IS GOD A LIAR?
- * ARE YOU ALLOWING GOD TO USE YOU FOR THE GOOD OF ALL?
- * HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING DOWN ON OTHERS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST - WHETHER HERE OR IN THE GREATER BODY?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How should we "target" people within the assembly toward specific roles, or ministries? Should we have titles and positions to which people are assigned? Should people volunteer, or wait to be asked? How does this mutual-edification of the assembly work itself out in a practical way? (*This is purposefully the same question as last week!*)