

SPIRITUAL FAMILY & CHURCH LIFE

Part 8 of THE PURPLE BOOK. Ephesians 4:1-16.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 27, 2022.

INTRODUCTION: CHURCH MATTERS

- Just as vitamins and nutrients are important for physical health, so church is vital for our spiritual health.

FIVE ESSENTIALS FOR SPIRITUAL HEALTH

1. Spiritual Relationships - Ephesians 4:1-3.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. Doctrinal Stability - Ephesians 4:4-6.

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:14 (ESV) ...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

3. Mutual Ministry - Ephesians 4:7.

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ephesians 4:16b (ESV) ... when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

4. Anointed Leadership - Ephesians 4:11-12.

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

5. Christ-Like Maturity - Ephesians 4:13-14.

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

CONCLUSION: TREASURE THE CHURCH

Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

"Nothing in the world is dearer to God's heart than his church; therefore, being his, let us also belong to it, that by our prayers, our gifts, and our labors, we may support and strengthen it. If those who are Christ's refrained, even for a generation, from numbering themselves with his people, there would be no visible church, no ordinances maintained, and, I fear, very little preaching of the gospel" (Charles Spurgeon, from a sermon preached on April 5, 1891).

Homework:

- Review today's teaching.
- In your small group, discuss the role and necessity of the church.
- Study chapter 8 of the Purple Book: Prayer & Worship.

TODAY'S BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL TERMS: THE CHURCH & FELLOWSHIP

The church is the community of those who have been called out by God from their slavery to sin through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet. 5:10; cf. Rom. 8:28). The church is the assembly of the redeemed—those who have been called by God the Father to salvation as a gift to his Son (John 6:37; 10:29; 17:6, 9, 24). It is the corporate gathering of those who have been transferred from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13) so that they are citizens of heaven and not of this world (Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 2:11).

The church was born on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–21, 38–47), having been purchased by the crucified and risen Christ (Acts 20:28; cf. Col. 3:1–4). Following the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the church steadily increased in numbers as the gospel was faithfully proclaimed throughout the world (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 9:31, 42; 11:21, 24; 14:1; 16:5).

Adapted from MacArthur & Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*.

Fellowship. Believers participate in certain spiritual realities, such as Christ, the blood of Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the life of the church (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:16; 2 Cor. 6:14; 8:4; 13:14; Gal. 2:9, Eph. 3:9]; Phil. 1:5; 2:1; 3:10; Phile. 1:6; 1 John 1:3, 6, 7).

Adapted from CWSB Dictionary.

Christians share in or have fellowship in certain experiences, such as:

- 2 Cor. 8:23 - Christian work
- Heb. 10:33 - persecution
- 2 Cor. 1:7 - suffering, 2 Cor. 1:7
- 1 Cor 10:18 - worship

Adapted from the *New Bible Dictionary*. R. P. Martin