

“Growth in God’s New Society”
Ephesians 4:7-16
February 23, 2003 Pastor Harry Skeelee

Introduction

I. I have been given _____, as has every other believer. (7)

1. Emphasis on _____ (1-6)

- 1) one body: the _____, God’s new _____.
- 2) one Spirit: Only by the work of the Holy Spirit do people _____.
- 3) One hope: A _____ sense of _____ motivates and unifies all Christians.
- 4) one Lord: In 2 ways God had demonstrated his involvement in Jesus’ life:
 - a) God the Father had _____ Jesus. Rom 10:9
 - b) He had also _____ him. Phil 2:8-11
- 5) one faith: This is the _____ body of beliefs that Christians share, and the _____ attitude of believing those things.
- 6) one baptism: There is one _____ to whom Christians are joined by baptism.
- 7) one God and father of all, who is over all and thru all and in all.
This is the ultimate reason for Xns to be united in the Holy Spirit:
Their God _____ all the universe, and he is _____ everywhere.

2. Emphasis on _____ (7)

“inclusio”: a word or phrase used as an _____ to bracket a text to emphasize a point

- a) “in love” v2, 15, 16
- b) “each” v7, v16.

II. God has raised up _____ to equip me for ministry. (11,12)

5 kinds of gifted leaders serve by _____, _____, and _____ the good news.

Why did Jesus Christ give these people to his church?

1. Dominant view: the leaders in v11 were given to the church by Jesus

to equip _____ to exercise their gifts in Christian service.

2. Alternative view: the leaders in v11 were given to the church by Jesus

to do _____ things listed in verse 12.

III. My _____, and that of every other believer,

is _____ for the church to grow. (16)

“From (Jesus Christ) the whole body . . . grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (16)

Each one of us has a God-given “shape”

S _____ (I Cor 12, Rom 12, Eph 4)

H _____ (Matt 12:34, Ps 37:4)

A _____ (Ex 31:3, I Cor 12:5)

P _____ (I Cor 2:11, LB)

E _____ (Rom 8:28, II Cor 1)

Conclusion: