

## *A Christ-like Unity in Diversity*

Ephesians 4:7-16 (4:1-16)

### **1A. Christ & the Church/His Body**

- 1B. Christ is Central in Relationship to the Church/His Body
  - 1C. He is clearly presented as the One Whose Body it is
  - 2C. He is clearly presented as the 'exalted head' of His Body
  - 3C. He is clearly presented as the 'giver of gifts' to His Body
- 2B. Christ is "the One (& Only) Lord" of the Church/His Body
- 3B. Christ is "the Exalted Head" of the Church/His Body
- 4B. Christ is the Source of the Life of the Church/His Body
- 5B. Christ is the Goal of Growth of the Church/His Body

### **2A. Christ & the Diversity in the Church/His Body**

- 1B. There is no doubt that Diversity Exists
- 2B. There is no doubt that this Diversity is Christ-Produced
- 3B. There is no doubt that this Diversity began before we were born
- 4B. There is no doubt that this Diversity is Absolutely Necessary
  - 1C. Every 'connecting point' provides something unique
  - 2C. Every 'connecting point' must properly work
  - 3C. Every 'connecting point' – when it fulfills its Christ-ordained duty:
    - 1D. The Body of Christ is properly 'fit together'
    - 2D. The Body of Christ is properly 'held together'
    - 3D. The Body of Christ properly grows

### **3A. Christ & the 'Building Up' of the Church/His Body**

- 1B. The Need of the 'Building Up' of His Body
- 2B. The Goal of the 'Building Up' of His Body
  - 1C. The Goal is a Christ-Like Body
    - 1D. Grow up into Christ
    - 2D. Common "Faith in Christ, the Son of God"
    - 3D. Common "Knowledge of Christ, the Son of God"
    - 4D. Fulness of Christ – Become fully like Him
    - 5D. Likeness of Christ
  - 2C. The Goal is a Unified Body – ("whole body" "mature man")
- 3B. The Sign of the 'Building Up' of His Body
  - 1C. We move from "independence" to "interdependence"
  - 2C. We move from 'self-centered immaturity' to a 'body-centered maturity'
  - 3C. We move from childish instability to mature stability
- 4B. The Agents of the 'Building Up' of His Body
  - 1C. Each Member of Christ's Body
  - 2C. Each Minister in Christ's Body
    - 1D. Ministers in Christ's Body at Large – "Apostles, Prophets & Evangelists"
    - 2D. Ministers in the Local Manifestation of Christ's Body – "pastors & teachers"
- 5B. The Manner of the 'Building Up' of His Body
  - 1C. Truth/Honesty
  - 2C. Love

### **4A. Christ & the Expression of Love in the Church/His Body**

- 1B. The Definite Need of Love in Christ's Diversified Body – 4:15-16
- 2B. The Defining of Love in Christ's Diversified Body – 4:1-5:33
  - 1C. A Christ-like Love
  - 2C. A Christ-like Selfless & Sacrificial Love
  - 3C. A Christ-like Forbearing Love
  - 4C. A Christ-like Forgiving Love