

# 12

## Epistle to the Ephesians: The Grand Goal of Church Unity (4.7-16)

- Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church
- 26 February 2006
- Pastor Paul Goh

- I. What?
- A. For the maturity of the saints
1. For the work of the ministry
- a) It refers to the leaders doing the work of ministry - preaching the Word "which is able to build you up"
- b) To promote spiritual growth and development of the body of Christ
- (1) This preaching must be spoken in love
- (a) I must not give the impression that I must win at all costs
- (b) If I believe that he is in the wrong I must not despise him but bring the truth so as to persuade him that he is in error
- (2) This preaching to given to those who was called
- c) To the extent that each single part will have fully attained what it was meant to do
2. For the building up of the body of Christ or "body building"
- B. Final goal - so that we will all come to the unity of the faith
1. The faith of the Trinity
2. The faith of the Son of God - the person of Jesus Christ
- a) His deity
- b) His work
- c) His death
3. To come to the same comprehension of the Jesus Christ
4. This is future & will only be fully realised in heaven
- C. Not as children brought along by all kinds of doctrines
1. by the cunningness of men
2. by trickery
3. by deception
- II. How?
- A. Through leaders in the church: apostle, prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers
1. The various offices
- a) Apostle (I Cor. 9.1; I Cor.15.8)
- (1) For the era of the early church
- (2) Their qualifications
- (a) They personally saw the risen Christ
- (b) They were personally send out by Christ
- (c) Given a supernatural revelation of the Truth (Eph.3.2, 3; Gal. 1.10-12)
- (d) Given power to speak infallibly (I Cor. 4.16; Phil, 3.17)
- (e) Given power to work miracles
- (3) No successor to the apostles - office is temporary and now ceased.
- (a) No need to speak infallibly as the entire Scriptures are already given

- (b) The Christian church is no longer an infant but an adult
- b) Prophets
  - (1) Who spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
  - (2) To whom was truth imparted by the Holy Spirit
  - (3) Temporary office - also ceased
    - (a) No further revelation is necessary
    - (b) Whatever is necessary has already been given
    - (c) The canon of Scripture is now closed
- c) Evangelists
  - (1) A man who was left by the apostle to build the foundation that had been established, to expound and explain the truth more fully
  - (2) Sometimes he was sent ahead to prepare the way the way and to introduce the general message of the gospel
  - (3) Temporary office as the churches were established and became more settled - also ceased
- d) Pastor - Teacher
  - (1) It is not 2 offices but one & not to be separated
  - (2) He is both pastor and teacher in the same person
    - (a) But, both gifts are not alike in the same person
    - (b) Some make better pastors and some make better teachers
  - (3) The office of a pastor is to shepherd and expound the Word of God
    - (a) He is given in charge of souls
    - (b) "He is not merely a nice, pleasant man who visits people and has an afternoon tea with them, or passes the time of day with them. He is the guardian, the custodian, the protector, the organiser, the director, the ruler of the flock"
  - (4) The office is permanent till Christ comes
- 2. They are God's gifts to the church
  - a) Not to benefit themselves or fatten themselves but to be edifying the church
  - b) They serve the church
- B. The gifts were given according to the measure of the gift of Christ
  - 1. Some have more and others have less
  - 2. There is diversity in the gifts but these are used for the unity of the faith
  - 3. He gave it when Christ ascended up into heaven and captured the enemies of sin, death and hell
  - 4. Before this he descended to earth to preach the gospel
    - a) To fulfill all the types of the Scriptures
    - b) To finish was started