

Ephesians 3:14-4:16 The Main Thing

Paul's prayer:

Eph 3:14-21 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family³ in heaven and on earth is named, **16** that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **20** Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

What is the main thing that these saints would exhibit?

Eph 4:1-7 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. **4** 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. **7** But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

What is the “main thing” of the “therefore”?

What should the church be like? List five behaviors or characteristics:

- 1**
- 2**
- 3**
- 4**
- 5**

Here is the cosmic “bigger picture”:

Eph 4:8-12 Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? **10** He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) **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,

His rise (His ascension) to where he can exercise control....What did Jesus plan to control?

According to this text what did Jesus give when He ascended ?

Why did He give these gifts?

Ephesians 4:13-16 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, **14** 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. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and

held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

What are the results with in the church if equipping happens? List some?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Do these texts promote separation or integration?

Independence or interdependence?

Solo or united?

What must we do to be faithful to this text?

So what is the “main thing”?

A meditation this week:

Prayerfully ask God how you might demonstrate being an effective joint in the body.

List what God shows you.

What will be your personal action plan for loving and helping your house church family?