

Series: Healthy Church

Tilting the Scales

Sunday March 4, 2018

TEXT: Eph. 4:1-16

TEACHING

1. What would you go to jail for?

2. Chapters 1-3 Recap:

- God chose Jews and Gentiles alike to be saved.
- Believers are blessed in Christ: blameless, adopted, redeemed, included, marked with the seal of God's family.
- Believers are made alive in Christ.
- Saved by grace.
- To do good things.
- One in Christ – with God (saved) and with one another (the church).

3. Chapters 1-3 Recap as a Prayer:

- God chose to save me (even before the creation of the world!).
- In Christ – I am blameless, adopted, redeemed, included in God's family.
- I am made ALIVE in Christ.
- I am saved by GRACE – NOT by the things I do – it is pure gift!
- I am saved to do the good things God has in mind for me to do.
- I am united with God.
- I am united with everyone who follows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

4. *As a prisoner of the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received* (Eph. 4:1).

5. *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love* (Eph. 4:2).

6. *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace* (Eph. 4:3).

7. *There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all* (Eph. 4:4-6).

8. *But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."*

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) Eph. 4:7-10

9. *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers...* (Eph. 4:11).

10. *... to prepare God's people for works of service.*

11. *...so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ* (Eph. 4:12-13).

12. Our ministry work accomplishes 2 purposes:

i. It builds unity.

ii. It helps us become mature.

13. Ministry builds unity because it is service of one another.

Ministry builds unity because it acknowledges our interdependence.

Ministry builds unity because we accomplish more together than we do on our own.

14. *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work* (Eph. 4:14-16).

TAKEAWAYS:

1. Where are you broken? How will you let your church know? Who will you talk to who can "hold you up" at this time?

2. Is there an area in your life that's out of balance, ie. your walk doesn't characteristically look like your talk? What can you do about that?

3. What gift or idea or dream might you offer in service of your church? If nothing comes to mind – would you give it some thought this coming week?