God's Work of Art

Christ-Made Unity

Ephesians 2:11-22; 4:1-16

for the <u>Growing</u> Christian:

Read Ephesians 4:11-16. Paul is explaining how Christ has organized His church body. The apostles and prophets are the authors of the books in our Bibles. God has used them to reveal Himself to us, and to reveal to us who we are and how we are to live as His creation.

The evangelists and pastor/teachers are preachers and elders in the local congregation today. They continue to help each Christian grow so that each Christian can participate in ministry.

Too many Christians today look for a church to entertain them, or to provide a product or service for them. The temptation then becomes to only "take," without "giving," or growing. Prayerfully consider your next step: How are you going to grow more in your knowledge of scripture this summer/year? How can you get involved more in the "work of ministry"? Don't hesitate to ask an elder, "how can I help?"

lor Children:

How do you like to be encouraged? Do you like a compliment from a friend? Do you like a family member that helps you with homework? Do you feel better after spending time doing an activity with a friend? Maybe a family member or friend has encouraged you to try something new or difficult by telling you they believe in you.

Read Ephesians 4:29 and 5:19-20. God likes it when we encourage others. When we compliment them, believe they can do difficult things, or spend time helping them with a task.

Think about ways to make others feel better, more cheerful, or stronger today. Ask them to do the same for you.

Weekly Affirmation:

I belong in my church family!

for the Mature Christian:

Read Ephesians 5:15-6:9. By this point Paul has explained to Christians of every generation that the Holy Spirit has created the unity within the church family, and that unity must be diligently maintained. Chapters 4-6 give us God's design for how to do that!

Unity is not maintained by people abusing power to force others to do things their way. Instead, Spirit-made unity is kept by Christians putting each other first - humbly subjecting themselves to one another according to God's wise design.

As you read through 5:15-6:9 again, think about your expression of submission according to your role. Ultimately it comes down to each of us submitting ourselves to Christ as Head of His Church, as our Lord & King. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to a better humility, submission, and service to others. Remember that honoring God will lead to honoring yourself while honoring others.

Weekly Memory Verse.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

May 2024 Growth Goals

- Read the Book of Ephesians
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses
- uns

 undow is year, when I am you window is year were found back the heart beds his you don't see his you don't see his you don't see his you have you heart bed's like leveret see higher So I see hop your help to be the hope you have your you and you please help your it is to be your you and you please help your your you are please help your Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of Ephesians (available on the website).
- Invite at least one person to weekly assembly.