

# ***Destiny: E Pluribus Unum***

*PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 4:1–16*





*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

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

**Ephesians 4:3**

*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.*

*But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.*

**Ephesians 4:7**

*This is why it says: “When He ascended on high, He took many captives and gave gifts to His people.”*

*(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.)*

*So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,*

*to equip His people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up*

**Ephesians 4:12**

*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.*

*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 people in their deceitful scheming.*

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of 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.*

**Core Value #6: We equip for maturity and ministry.**

**Core Value #7: We celebrate unity in diversity.**

God enables believers  
to exhibit Christlike  
relationships (4:1–6)



The Christian life is learning to match my walk (the conduct of my life) with my talk (the confession of my faith). *Orthodoxy and orthopraxy.*

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*

*Only let us live up to what we have already attained.*

**Philippians 3:16**

**All of the virtues mentioned were displayed in Christ's own character and are to be evident in the daily walk of every Christian.**

**The Church is not a conglomeration of people seeking to retain their independence, but rather a spiritual fusion of new men and women molded together by God's Spirit.**

**Tom Julien**

**The unity of the Church is the means by which the manifold wisdom of God is being displayed to the universe. The Church is the pilot project of God's purposes.**

**Peter O'Brien**

Christ distributes  
customized portions of  
grace to believers (4:7–10)



*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,*

*so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;*

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.*

*There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.*

**1 Corinthians 12:5**

*There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

**1 Corinthians 12:6**

*But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere.*

Christ ascended as conqueror to the Father's right hand,  
His train of captives being the principalities and powers  
He had defeated, dethroned and disarmed.

After every conquest in the ancient world there was invariably both a receiving of tribute and a distributing of largesse. What conquerors took from their captives, they gave away to their own people.

Christ equips believers  
to grow together in  
spiritual maturity (4:11–16)



**The tools Christ uses (4:11,12)**



**Christ gifts leaders so that they can train believers to exercise their own respective gifts for ministry rather than do all the work for them.**

**The pastor is not a person who jealously guards all ministry in his own hands, and successfully squashes all lay initiatives, but one who helps and encourages all God's people to discover, develop and exercise their gifts.**

**John Stott**

**The New Testament envisages not a single pastor with a docile flock but both a plural oversight and an every-member ministry.**

**We often think:** We are the audience. God is the prompter.  
Leaders are the participants.  
**In reality:** We are the participants. Leaders are the  
prompters. God is the Audience.

**The result Christ  
ensures (4:13–16)**



The ultimate goal of the ministry is maturity: maturity in the collective sense, showing itself in united churches; maturity in the individual sense, showing itself in the perfection of Christians.

*In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's Word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!*

*Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.*

*But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

**Truth becomes hard if it is not softened by love; love becomes soft if it is not strengthened by truth.**

**John Stott**

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow.

**A.W. Tozer**



**Christ enables the Church  
to live like a world-class  
spiritual orchestra.**

