

Ephesians 4:1-16, TNIV page 801

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. 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. 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 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 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.

Theological Flow...

"E Pluribus Unum"

We exist as a unified whole, and are placed expectantly within community.

We retain our individuality, but as an expression of service and participation within the whole.

Ref: Galatians 5:13-14...

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

* We are called together to be a functioning, expressive whole... for service and growth. This goes far beyond simply saying that church is not just a "spectator sport."

The goal, or the end result is a body of people who are all moving forward on the collective energy of the group, each giving to the others and all finding a benefit.

Participation “Zones”

Children and Nurture

1

Crib Room
Classes
Playdates
Excursions

Fellowship

2

Setup
Cleanup
Organizing Food
Recycling
Excursions
Visitor Care

Worship

3

Participating	Sound Board
Organizing Participants	Music/Vocals
Slides	Praise Leading
Webcast	Prayer Stations/Art
Special Gatherings	

Service Ministry

4

5004 Del Ray	Bethesda Cares
Nursery School Board	Thoughtful Treasures
Halloween Party	A Wider Circle

Campus

5

Grounds Plus
Renovations
Hosting Others

Congregational Care

6

Visitation
Prayers of the People

Adult Nurture and Growth

7

Wed Nite Study
Ladies Monthly Fellowship

Making Disciples of Christ

8

Local Evangelism
Global Evangelism