

**Text: Eph. 4:13–14** “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,”

**Intro:** The five-fold ministry gifts consisting of the “apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers” (Eph. 4:11) have a specific goal to build a “unity of the faith” in the Church.

—The goal of the five-fold ministry.

—“equip the saints for the work of ministry” (4:12)

—The word “equip” means to be perfectly suited for the work of ministry; the ministry gifts, prepare the members of the Church to do the ministry.

—Paul wrote in—1 Cor. 12:18–19 “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?” Everyone fill a unique place.

—As with all of the spiritual gifts (1Cor. 14:12) the five-fold gifts are “for building up the body of Christ,” (4:12).

—What is meant by “building (οικοδομή oikodomē) up the body of Christ”: Each member of the body is being built up and made to fit together in unique gifting in the Church.

—The “body” is built as we “attain to the unity of the faith”; the word “faith” here means doctrine, biblical truths about the Gospel that are essential—Rom. 10:9–10 “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

—The word “confess” in Greek is ὁμολογέω homologeō means to say the same thing.

—“knowledge of the Son of God,” (4:13); the Greek word translated “knowledge” means growing and attaining knowledge of Jesus.

—“to a perfect man” (4:13)—literally a completed man; full grown adult.

—“**to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,**” (4:13); we have left all spiritual infancy behind and have reached full grown stature as adult Christians—**Eph. 4:14** “that **we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine,** by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,”

—**Eph. 4:15** “but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up in all things into Him who is the head**—Christ—“

—**1Cor. 13:11** “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; **but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**”

—Paul foresees the completion of these goals resulting in an effective and powerful Church—**Eph. 4:16** “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, **causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**”

—Every part of the body is properly connected and working together as it should; every member of the Church functioning in their gifting complementing every other member.

—“**no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk,**” (Eph. 4:17)

—Paul opened this chapter admonishing us to “**walk worthy**”, now he admonishes the Ephesians not to walk like the culture around them.

—Ephesus was a very immoral city; it was a leading city of commerce and culture in the Roman Empire, the home of the pagan temple of Diana, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

—Worship of Diana involved the worst immorality of degraded pagan religion.

—Diana was the goddess of the moon; daughter of Zeus a fertility goddess which included temple prostitution.

—Paul’s preaching of the Gospel in Ephesus had threatened the trade of the silversmiths who made images of Diana to sell to the Ephesians.

—Demetrius the silversmith incited the crowd against Paul—*Acts 19:26*  
“Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that ***they are not gods which are made with hands.***”—*Acts 19:28*  
“Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”

—Paul reminds the Ephesian believers of the life they had been set free from—*Eph. 4:19* “*they...have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*”

—Paul exhorts them *Eph. 4:22* “...put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.”

—How do you “***walk worthy***”—*Eph. 4:23* “and be ***renewed in the spirit of your mind.***”

—Paul wrote in *Rom. 12:2* “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the ***renewing of your mind***, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

—“***Walking Worthy***” is not just the avoidance of the sinful corruption of our past lives; it is the triumphant power and transformation of the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ.

—So transformation is change from the inside out.

—Jesus gave us the key to this transformation; He prayed that we would be changed by the Word—*John 17:17* “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

—Our natural minds are set on refusing to see God as infinitely more worthy of praise than we are; ***the only thing our fallen minds desire is what we perceive is good for us***—*Gen. 3:6* “the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise...”

—The renewed mind puts the infinite worth of God above everything—*Rom. 12:1* “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you ***present your bodies a living sacrifice***, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

—Walking worthy is—**Eph. 4:24** “and that you ***put on the new man*** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

—Changed inwardly it is lived outwardly.

—The final piece in this **Eph. 4:30** “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

—Grieving the Holy Spirit is submitting your flesh to the old life, while the Holy Spirit is working in you to create the new man.

—Refusing to give in to the lie of the devil, who will tell you its your right, its good for you—**Eph. 4:27** “nor give place to the devil.”

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Unity of the Faith  
**Eph 4:13-14**  
**Pastor C.E. Bowden**

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