

## Meaningful Membership

### Bodywork

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Ephesians 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says,

"When HE ascended on high,  
HE led captive A host of captives,  
And HE gave gifts to men."

<sup>9</sup> (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

<sup>10</sup> He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

<sup>11</sup> And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

<sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

<sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. Ephesians 4:7-16

## Bodywork

### I. Provisioned by Christ

A. Christ provisions each Christian with spiritual gifts that sustain spiritual life (4:7-10)

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B. Christ also provisions the church as a whole with leaders who equip by ministering the Word (4:11).

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C. Believers are equipped so we will serve one another toward spiritual growth (4:12).

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### II. *Why* Saints Minister to the Body

- A. We serve one another to build up the body of Christ (4:12b)

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### II. *Why* Saints Minister to the Body

- B. We serve one another to attain corporate unity (4:13a)
- unity in the faith and
  - unity in the knowledge of the Christ

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### II. *Why* Saints Minister to the Body

- C. We serve one another to attain a mature character as a congregation that is a suitable fit to Him as the head (13b)

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### II. *Why* Saints Minister to the Body

- D. We serve one another to become stable through storms of change in the world (14)

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### III. *How* Saints Minister to the Body

- A. We serve by speaking gospel truth to one another in a spirit of love (15)

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#### **Adoption**

*You do not need to prove anything to yourself since you are already fully loved, approved and valued by your Father in heaven. Therefore you can love and serve all people, even your enemies, without doubting that you are God's workmanship and He created you to accomplish good things.*

## Bodywork

### III. *How Saints Minister to the Body*

- A. We serve by speaking gospel truth to one another in a spirit of love (15)

#### **Justification**

*You do not need to defend your rights or to control the opinions that others may have of you because you are no longer condemned in your sin.*

*Therefore you can live with deep humility, yet much confidence and joy.*

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### III. *How Saints Minister to the Body*

- B. We serve by engaging with other members for growth (16)

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### IV. The Environment for Bodywork

Small community groups

## Bodywork

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:7

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

Romans 12:10