

Get out there . . .

"(v.1) In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to ***get out there*** and walk—better yet, run—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. (v.2) And mark that you do all this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, (v.3) pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

(v.4) You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. (v.5) You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, (v.6) one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.

(v.7) But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. (v.8) The text for this is,

He climbed the high mountain,
He captured the enemy and seized the booty,
He handed it all out in gifts to the people.

(v.9) It's true, is it not, that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? (v.10) And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to the highest heaven. (v.11) He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher (v.12) to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, (v.13) until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ."

Ephesians 4:1-13

The Message

No passage is more descriptive of the church in action than Ephesians 4:1-16. Verse 1 marks a transition from the prayerful description of God's grace and salvation in the first three chapters to an explanation of the consequences of grace in chapters 4-6.

There are two main sections: 1) Live your call focused on unity—4:1-6
2) Each person has received grace to build up Christ's body—4:7-16

Living the call:

- Run . . . get out there.
- Don't sit !
- No strolling off.
- Do all of this with humility and discipline , not in fits and starts.
- Pour yourselves out for each other in acts of love.
- Stay together.
- One faith.
- Out of the generosity of Christ, each is given their own gift.
-" working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ."

There is the fully mature Body of Christ!

Where do you fit in?

How can we help you find your fit?

Decision Time: