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SERIES OVERVIEW:

- God's design and invitation to us – the church - is that we be perfectly united in mind and thought.
- The Bible gives numerous examples as to what we are to be united in and how to be united.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV) - ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

LAST WEEK: LEADERSHIP – (GO FIRST FOR OTHERS)**THIS WEEK: WE ALL BECOME MATURE (GROW & GO TOGETHER)**

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV) - ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ 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.

- **Equipped:** (*katartismos* – mended, rendered, arranged, strengthened, complete, make as it ought to be)
- **Service:** (*diakonia* – those whom obey the commands of God and promote belief and practice; **ministry**)
- **Mature:** (*teleios* – completed, finished, perfect, lacking nothing)

¹⁴ 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.

- Firm and confident in faith, belief and practice – what do you believe and why? How can you grow?

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

- Speaking (living out) truth in love – what do you speak? How do you speak? From where do you speak?
- We grow and build each other up in love, each person has a part – What are you building and growing?

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

- No longer live – Do so no more. Stop. Decide. Quit. Move. Change. Start. Try. Persevere. Live.
- In futile thinking, darkened in mind, without life, in ignorance from a hardened heart. **Starts in the heart**

¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

- Lost all sensitivity – become callous: (*apalgeō* – to cease to feel pain or grief) **Softened hearts and senses**
- Indulging in sensuality & impurity - unbridled lust, excess, shamelessness. **Master it, don't marry it**
- Full of gratitude and generosity

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

- Learn. Be taught. Grow. Change.

22You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- Put off the old **WAY** – Give effort, make decisions, ask for help, secure accountability, grow and change.
- BE MADE NEW – New truth. New way of thinking. New attitude. New self. Set apart: **New & Different**

25Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

- Reject lies, don't replay them – speak truth to (yourself) and others! **What headlines are you breaking?**

26“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27and do not give the devil a foothold.

- Get mad... just don't miss the mark because of it. Get mad... just don't stay mad or feed the madness

28Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

- Consume... and Contribute. Do what you can that is helpful and useful for the benefit of others.

29Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

- ONLY speak value, worth and life that builds others up according to their needs (not yours).
- Words that are a benefit not detriment to others – that it brings grace upon those who hear

30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

- Do not grieve, but glorify the Spirit of God by...
- Choose contentedness over bitterness, joy over rage, calm over anger, peace over brawling, praise over slander, and benevolence over malice.

32Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.

- **Be kind**
- **Be compassionate**
- **Forgive each other as God has forgiven you**

... And we will be: mature, lacking nothing, complete, whole.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you from this message? Why?
- What is the most personally challenging part of this message? Share.
- How does God's part, our part and other's part play into the topic of maturity?
- What is one next step you can take from this message?



- To watch the Overtime Podcast, go to: <https://bit.ly/RLOvertime>

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