

Ekklesia: Mature

Week of June 6: Ephesians 4:1-16

Observation

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-16. What stands out to you as you read?
2. What questions do you have?

Observation: What does it say?

1. What do you notice about the text?
Things to look for:
 - repeating words and phrases
 - Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
 - contrasts and comparisons
 - similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
 - cause and effect relationships
 - details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text
 - grammar
 - larger themes in the passage
 - key words and themes
2. What questions do you have?

Interpretation

1. In verse 1 Paul urges the Ephesians to live a life worthy of their calling. What is the calling of the Ephesian Christians? (See also 1:22-23 and 2:19-22)

2. Why does Paul include verse 2? Why do you think that humility, gentleness, patience and love might be important to the Ephesians' calling?

3. What is the purpose of the gifts mentioned in verse 11? Why do you think he mentions these five gifts in particular?

Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

Application

1. In what ways has the Spirit equipped you to help build up the body of Christ?
2. What might pull us away from growing in unity and maturity in the church? How can we guard against these things?

Suggestion for Prayer

Prayer for First Baptist Church that we may be a congregation that is united and is growing in maturity.