

## **Unity through *Diversity* toward *Maturity***

### **We, the Church, are gifted with diversity.**

- Christ has specially gifted every believer for ministry (4:7)
- Christ has given the church specially gifted leaders (4:11)
- Leaders are to equip every believer to use ministry gifts (4:12a)
- Every believer is to use gifts to build up the Body (4:12, 16)

### **We, the Church, are called to unity.**

- All are to come to common faith & intimacy with Christ (4:13a)
- All are to be lovingly truthful in every way (4:15a)
- All are joined & held together by connections in Christ (4:16)
- Fruit of the Spirit 'greases gears' of work together (Gal 5:22-23)

### **We, the Church, are to grow to maturity.**

- Maturity of the Body is the purpose of our ministry gifts (4:12)
- Maturity of the Body is the purpose of our call to unity (4:13)
- Maturity of the Body is the means to resist deception (4:14)
- Maturity of the Body is the means of reflecting Christ (4:15-16)

### **We, the Church, must not neglect our first love.**

- 😊 Hard working & persistent – like Martha (Lk 10:38-40)
- 😊 Discerning & willing to speak truth – like Bereans (Acts 17:11)
- 😞 Distracted from relationship with God – unlike Mary (Lk 10:39-42)

**Ministry Gifts & use:** Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12:4-31; 1 Pet 4:10-11

**Work of ministry:** Eph 2:10; Hebrews 10:24; James 1:22

**Unity & its purpose:** Rom 15:5; Phil 1:27, 2:2; 1 Pet:10-11

**Maturity in the Body:** 1 Cor 2:6; Heb 5:11-6:3, Gal. 5:22-23

**Focus vs Distraction:** Luke 10:38-42

## **Scriptures (NIV)**

**Ephesians 4:7, 11-16** “<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it...<sup>11</sup> It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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 men in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> 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.”

**Revelation 2:1-5a** “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5a</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.”