

## "The Essential Nature of the Gathered Church"

Text: Ephesians 4:1-11

Scrip read: Hebrews 10:19-31

Reading: Ephesians 3:20-21

**Introduction:** Our walk in unity - vv. 1-6

A) The plea for unity

B) The character of Christian unity

C) The identity of Christian unity

**I. The gracious giving of Christ - vv. 7-11**

**A) The giving**

1. He gives individually  
(I Cor. 12:4-8; Rom. 12:3-6)

2. He gives graciously  
(I Pet. 4:10-11)

3. He gives benevolently  
(I Pet. 4:10)

**B) The Giver** - vv. 8-10  
(Heb. 12:14)

**C) The gifts** - vv. 11-12a  
(II Cor. 5:6-8; Col. 2:3, 7-8; Pr. 3:5-6)

**Conclusion:**

1) Preserving unity requires devotion and hard work

2) Spiritual unity requires physical unity

3) Taking risks for Christ requires knowing the unfathomable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8)

James Montgomery Boice writing on Eph. 4,

*"Two points are worth stressing about Christ's dispensing these gifts: **First**, if they are given by Jesus, then they are to be used for the purpose for which He gave them, namely, the service and edification of the church. ...**Second**, the gifts are given to each Christian - that is, everyone has at least one gift - and for that reason, the church is only fully vigorous and healthy when all are ministering."*