

## "The Essential Nature of the Gathered Church"

Text: Ephesians 4:15-16

Scripture reading: I Corinthians 13

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

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

**II. The full measure of Christ** - vv. 12-14

**III. The whole body of Christ** - vv. 15-16

**A) Grown by proclamation** - vs. 15

### **1. Truth**

(Gal. 4:16)

**2. Love:** (What is needed? Self-\_\_\_\_\_ )  
(Col. 3:14)

a) Love is a \_\_\_\_\_  
(I Tim. 1:5; I Pet. 1:22)

b) Love is a \_\_\_\_\_  
(I Cor. 14:1)

c) Love is \_\_\_\_\_  
(Rom. 5:8; Phil. 2:5)

### 3. Growth

(II Tim. 4:2-3; I Pet. 3:15; Jude 3; Matt. 18:15)

#### B) Supplied through work - vs. 16a

(I Cor. 12:14-25)

#### C) Built-up in love - vs. 16b

1. The church united in Christ, separate from world - II Pet. 1:3

2. Growth must be in the context of love - I Jn. 4:7-8

**Conclusion:** Little of Eph. 4 will matter to us...

1) ...if we do not see our need for \_\_\_\_\_

2) ...if we think that we can grow \_\_\_\_\_

3) ...if we do not \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor John MacArthur, *"God does not give us knowledge, understanding, gifts and maturity to keep, but to share. He does not equip us to stagnate, but to serve. We are not gifted and edified in order to be complacent and self-satisfied but in order to do the Lord's work of service in building up and expanding the body of Christ."*