

Ephesians: Spiritual Growth

The Wave Tossed Christian – Ephesians 4:7-16

November 28, 2021 - *Message Discussion Guide*

Scripture & Message Review

Read Ephesians 4:14, 2 Peter 2:1, and Colossians 2:8.

- What are some signs that reveal that a Christian or a church is weak, wavering, or deceived?
- What role does false teaching play in weak and immature Christians and churches?
- How common is false teaching today? What are some examples of deadly false teaching?
- How can a Christian or a church avoid being deceived by false teaching?

Read Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 5:1-2, Hebrews 13:17, and Acts 20:28.

- What is the primary role of a pastor-teacher?
- What role is implied when the pastor-teacher is called an overseer?
- What role is implied when the pastor-teacher is called an elder?
- What role is implied when the pastor-teacher is called a shepherd?
- What does it mean in Hebrews 13:17 when it says that pastor-teachers will give an account for those in the church?
- What does it mean in Hebrews 13:17 when it says that Christians should obey their pastor-teachers?

Read Ephesians 4:15-16, Colossians 2:19, and 1 Corinthians 12:14-18.

- What is the significance of the Bible comparing the church to a body and then speaking of body parts such as ligaments, ears, hands, and eyes?
- In what ways does the church need the partnership and industry of every Christian?
- In what ways is an individual Christian's spiritual maturity connected to his or her partnership with the church?

Big Question

- If a friend asked you to help him or her develop a strategy to become a strong Christian and a wise person, what are the most important things you would suggest?

Bonus Question

- In light of Ephesians 2:20 and other passages, what can we say about whether God still calls people to serve as Apostles and Prophets?

Scripture for Discussion Questions

Ephesians 4:14 | Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. (CSB)

2 Peter 2:1 | There were indeed false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and will bring swift destruction on themselves. (CSB)

Colossians 2:8 | Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ. (CSB)

Ephesians 4:11–12 | And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, (CSB)

1 Peter 5:1–2 | I exhort the elders among you as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory about to be revealed: Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but willingly, as God would have you; not out of greed for money but eagerly; (CSB)

Hebrews 13:17 | Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (CSB)

Acts 20:28 | Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. (CSB)

Ephesians 4:15–16 | But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part. (CSB)

Colossians 2:19 | He doesn't hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with growth from God. (CSB)

1 Corinthians 12:14–18 | Indeed, the body is not one part but many. If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted. (CSB)

Ephesians 2:20 | built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. (CSB)