

Lecture 26 – Ephesians: Flow of Thought

*“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”
Ephesians 4:15*

Key Terms

Body of Christ, unity of the church, worship, submission, offices, growth

Objectives

- *Explain what it means that we are the body of Christ and He is our head.
- *Identify the three aspects of the unity of the church.
- *Describe what the heart of the letter to the Ephesians is.

Ephesians: Flow of Thought

I. The Unity of the Church: Head and Body

- A. We are the body of Christ; Christ is our head.
- B. Head and body are working together.
- C. The metaphor of the body helps answer the question whether Jesus is the real head of His church or whether we need a human representative.
- D. Church leaders lead decisions but never replace the real headship of Christ. Ephesians 1:22
- E. Leading the church toward maturity means leading the church towards the _____.
- F. Christ’s headship also relates to all other relationships.

II. The Unity of the Church: Worship of Christ

- A. Ephesians 3:20-21
- B. Not only submission to Christ, but also worship of Christ

III. The Unity of the Church: Submission to Christ

- A. Ephesians 5:23-24
- B. Unity grows from the relationship to Christ.
Starting point for asking questions about submission is answering the question, ‘Who is Christ?’

IV. The Unity of the Church: Offices in the Church

- A. Ephesians 4:11-13, purpose of offices is to build up maturity of all members of church
(knowledge, service and worship)

V. Climax: Ephesians 4:14-16

- A. Christ-dependent maturing process
- B. Can’t leave anyone out
- C. Horizontal and vertical growth
- D. Distraction and deviation come when we do not hold on the Head, whom we cannot see, but who has left his Holy Spirit.
- E. Unity under the headship of Christ