

**Devotion Questions**  
**Ephesians 4: 1-16**

## Scripture Reading:

### To Be Mature

**4** <sup>1-3</sup> In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

<sup>4-6</sup> You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.

<sup>7-13</sup> But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. The text for this is,

He climbed the high mountain,  
He captured the enemy and seized the booty,  
He handed it all out in gifts to the people.

Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each

other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

<sup>14-16</sup> No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

### **Questions for Devotion:**

1. Who wrote the book of Ephesians? Why was it written?
2. What does the writer mean by “prisoner for the Master”?
3. How does humility differ from depression or low self-esteem? How does Christian confidence differ from arrogance?
4. Why does the writer of this letter encourage the hearers to be ‘quick at mending fence’? What fences in your life require mending? What does it require to mend fences?
5. How can those following Christ stay together, ‘outwardly and inwardly’? Does this prohibit individuality? Uniqueness?
6. Examine the UMC baptismal vows? What do you notice? What is being undertaken? How are Christ followers of ‘one faith, one baptism, One God and Creator of all’?
7. What are the gifts described in the verses? How do you discern what your spiritual gifts are? What gift(s) do you possess? Who helped you identify your gifts? If you believe your gifts have not been developed, why so? What does it mean to ‘grow up’ in the passage?
8. Name instances in which you did not act maturely. When was this discussed with you? What steps have you taken to prevent a repeat performance?

9. What is your assessment of our inability to engage in civil discourse?

10. Are you a skilled servant worker? If so, what fruit have you borne? If not, do have a desire to become one? Why does Paul indicate we need to be trained in skilled servant work? What does it mean for creation?