

Oct. 11 - Small Group Questions

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

1. We began our sermon series looking at the "what" and "how" of our Gospel calling. That is, our calling is to walk in balance or in equilibrium to Christ's measure (what) and to exercise the gifts (love, word, power) that the Spirit gives to each of us (how). This past sermon, we looked at "where" our calling is leading us. In verse 13, Paul described the goal of our calling as attaining to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of God's Son, to maturity, and to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. The word "attain" has a sense of eventuality and certainty and also has an active sense that implies action on our part. Knowing that we will eventually and certainly attain our goal, how does that change our attitude and motivations towards the Christian life and our call to action?
2. Unity of faith and knowledge of Christ has two levels: intellectual and relational. Unity of faith and knowledge of Christ is to be one and the same in our doctrinal and intellectual affirmations of Jesus. And it also means to be one and the same in our relational and moral priorities and commitments according to the Creeds. How are we doing personally and as a church in terms of our work to engage in unity or ecumenical and collaborative relationships with other Christians?
3. The word "maturity" means to become a fully grown adult (in contrast to being children who are tossed to and fro by the waves and winds of doctrine). To become mature means to be fully coordinated and to be in complete harmony in and with our own bodies. In that sense, what does being "mature" look like as individual Christians and as a church community?
4. Attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature means to be conformed to His nature and person. The Orthodox Church called this process "divinisation". While it does not teach that we can become substantially as gods, it teaches that we can become as Jesus is in His perfect humanity. What does becoming like Jesus look like and how do you know you and our community of believers are becoming more and more like Him?