

Intentional, Active Singleness

Eph. 4:1-16

1. Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit

- ☒ Undertone of responsibility in these verses
- ☒ Unity is a demonstration of the oneness of God himself...and we have the responsibility as members of the body of Christ to pursue, walk in, and take pains to maintain the unity of the body of Christ and God's desire for it.
- ☒ Maintaining the unity of the Spirit occurs in the context of the local church (Eph. 3:10) which is God's character being revealed to all through his work in us (justification and sanctification)
- ☒ As a result, our eagerness to maintain the unity of the Spirit is evidenced in our commitment to the local church.
- ☒ Singles are vital, not indispensable to the body of Christ...the local church
- ☒ Ps. 68:6 – God settles the solitary in a home

2. Goal of maturity (mature manhood, grow up into Christ)

- ☒ Submission is a characteristic of mature manhood
- ☒ Increasing in the faith and the knowledge of Christ is a characteristic of mature manhood...not being tossed by the waves (effects of sin and a fallen world) and carried by every wave of doctrine
 - Building a firm foundation
 - cultivation of spiritual disciplines
 - Study of the word of God / doctrine
 - Cultivation of spiritual gifts
- ☒ Results of mature manhood
 - purity / holiness – sanctification
 - work ethic, creativity in the workplace
 - holy recreation – choosing things that will build up the body of Christ

3. Practically living toward the body of Christ

- ☒ Every part working properly...truthing in love (v.15)
- ☒ Functioning complementarianism
 - Leading in ways appropriate to where you are in season of life
 - Setting an example of godly passion and fervor, application of doctrine, worship
 - Genuine care and protection for sisters in Christ
 - Being a servant-leader

The idea of authority in the Bible has nothing to do with being bossy or domineering or pompous or conceited or tyrannical. In fact, it has a great deal to do with servanthood. It requires a deep and genuine humility. Deborah and Barak sang praise to God for the commanders of Israel "...who offered themselves willingly among the people..." The offering up of oneself for the sake of others – this is the price of real authority. It was because Christ 'humbled himself' – to the point of dying – that he is now lifted up above all others in heaven or earth. His exaltation required his humiliation. The way up is down.

Elisabeth Elliot, *The Mark of a Man*

- ❏ Building itself up in love up into the head who is Christ for the glory of God...**your growth makes the whole body grow** (v.16)

Recommended Resources:

What's the Difference, John Piper

The Mark of a Man, Elisabeth Elliot

Humility, C.J. Mahaney

Don't Waste Your Life, John Piper