

“Stay The Course”
Ephesians 4:1-16
1/16/22
Message 1

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Stay The Course”
- **Direction for this Morning - Vision – Business Meeting**
 - **No Doubt you have heard the verse in Proverbs...**

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV 1900)

**18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: But he that keepeth the law,
happy is he.**

- **This has led to some Confusion in the Church**
 - This has often been taken to say
 - “Where there is no visionary leadership, people and enterprises fail.”
 - Now this can be very TRUE
- **The Next Step in the Confusion – ON How to Get the Church Growth?**
 - NOW please Don’t Mis-Understand
 - We need to have a VISION
 - We Want Church Growth
 - So - YES the church needs a Vision – It needs GOD’S vision – more on this a n minute
 - The Confusion in the church

- The church has look for WORLDLY answers to solves a SPIRITUAL problem
- The Business world has answers over what God's has already told us
- Willow Creek / Saddleback is primarily secular
 - Survey the culture find out what they are looking for in a church and give it to them
- Now there is A LOT of ideas about how to GROW the CHURCH
 - NO shortages of web sites out there...
 - Illustration – Examples
 - NOT all these ideas are BAD – BUT...
 - Artistry Labs

- **Show Pics**

- How We Help Churches
- We have been honored to spend the last 20 years helping local churches around the globe improve engagement and growth.
- From start-ups to mega-churches, we help churches...
- Understand why you are getting your current results
- Unify your leadership and congregation around fresh vision

- Increase your visitor retention
 - Get more people to take next steps
 - Resonate with brand
 - Build and sustain proactive marketing efforts
 - Provide a master-planned roadmap to your church's health and growth
- Missional Marketing - .com

- **Show Pics**

- **2nd The Proper interpretation of Proverbs 29:18**

- The Hebrew Word for “Vison” is – “Hazon”

- Means:

- God’s Revelation – NOT “Visionary Leadership.”

- A communication from God to be communicated to others, with a focus on the visual aspects of the communication

- The New King James Does a better job translating

Proverbs 29:18 (NKJV)

18 Where there is no **revelation**, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

- Vison = Revelation

- Clarke; “Where Divine revelation, and the faithful preaching of the sacred testimonies, are neither revered nor attended, the ruin of that land is at no great distance.”

○ Bridges; “No greater calamity, therefore, can there be than the removal of the revelation.... Where revelation is withdrawn from a church, the people perish in ignorance and delusion.”

- When there is **No Revelation** = The people cast off restraint:
 - This principle was lived out in Israel’s history.
 - Judges 17:6, 21:25, / 1 Samuel 3:1 all describe such times when God’s word was abandoned, and the people lived with no restraint.
- BUT Happy is he who keeps the law:
 - In contrast, there is happiness and contentment for the one who keeps the law.
 - The Bible is a guide given to us by our owner and creator, telling us how to live a wise and blessed life.
 - So do you think it might have something to say about church Growth
 - As a Matter of FACT the CHURCH has GROWN JUST FINE with out many of the worldly ideas for over 2000 years

- **Calvary CP Vision**

- **Is NOT some slick Marketing Campaign**
 - Based on World wisdom
- **It’s Simply Jesus**
 - Based on God’s Word
 - A STRONG FOCUS

- On the Revelation of God's WORD
- Loving EACH Others
- Loving the LOST
- So the Title of the message is – STAY THE COURSE

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

○ **2 Main Points**

- Stay the Course The Early Church Modeled - Acts 2:42-47
- Stay the Course Paul Gave Us - Ephesians 4:1-16

Stay The Course The Early Church Modeled - Acts 2:42-47

Acts 2:42–47 (NKJV)

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

• **First: Note the SIMPLICITY with this plan**

○ **Are Responsibilities**

- Study God's Word
- Fellowship
- Celebrate Communion

- Pray
- EAT
- **God's Responsibilities**
 - Who Builds the Church?
 - HE DOES all the BUILDING / ADDING
 - DOES THIS TAKE the PRESSURE OFF / It should

Stay The Course Paul Gave Us - Ephesians 4:1-16

- Stay The Course In Unity vs. 1-6
- Stay The Course In Using Your God Given Gifts vs. 7-11
 - AKA = BE a Contributor not a Consumer
- Stay The Course In Growing "Maturity" vs. 11-16

Stay The Course In Unity vs. 1-6

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV)

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

• First: Context and Paul's Concern v. 1

- **1st I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord V. 1a**

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

- **The Prisoner – House Arrest**

- Why? For the Gospel

- **NOTE: The Prisoner of the Lord - Not a Prisoner of Rome**

- Paul KNEW his circumstances Came from the Lord, NOT PEOPLE
- *Ray Stedman said, “The result of Paul’s viewpoint is that he does not fret about being imprisoned. He doesn’t feel limited by his chains. If Jesus put these chains on him, then the chains can only be a tool for furthering God’s purpose and accomplishing His will”.*

- **Lesson**

- Whatever your circumstances are today know that is where God has you
- So stop Complaining and start Praising

- **2nd beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called**

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

- **Beseech**

- The word for beseech means to “beg”
- Paul is begging them walk worthy of the calling!!!

- **Worthy**

- The word for worthy means: “worthy” (axiōs) means “equal weight”

- Calling
 - Salvation
 - Christian Conduct
 - One's calling and conduct should be in balance.
 - DOCTRINE MUST DEFINE DUTY
- Our Position in Christ
 - In the O.T. it was:
 - "If you obey Me, I'll bless you"
 - In Christ it's:
 - "I've Already blessed you, now in response to His love & grace, obey Him."
- So I BEG you walk WORTHY of SALVATION and Behave as Christians

• **Second: The Characteristic that should MARK our lives vs. 2-3**

- **1st Lowliness = Humility**

Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

- Pride Rules The World
 - In Times Past
 - *John Wesley, observed that "neither the Roman nor the Greeks had a word for humility." The very concept was so foreign and abhorrent to their way of thinking that they had no term to describe it.*

- In Greek culture, humility was thought of as a vice, to be practiced only by slaves.
- Pride Rules Today
 - This is the case in our world today!
 - I am going to get you before you get me, a sign of weakness, in the world!
 - It is not cool to think of oneself as less than another....
 - We are to boast in our accomplishments!
 - We are to think that we are the greatest and that there is none better, and we call it self-esteem!
- God tells us to be humble
 - Set aside ourselves for the sake of others
 - Esteem Others Better than ourselves

Philippians 2:3 (NKJV)

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- *Jesus IS our Example*
- *Thomas A Kempis; "The Imitation of Christ. If you wish to learn and appreciate something worthwhile, then love to be unknown and considered as nothing. Truly to know and despise self is the best and most perfect counsel. To think of oneself as nothing, and always to think well and highly of others is the best and most perfect wisdom. Wherefore, if you see another sin openly or commit a serious crime, do not consider yourself better, for you do not know how long you can remain in good estate. All*

men are frail, but you must admit that none is more frail than yourself."

- A person who has encounter God
 - Understands there is nothing to boast about! It's all God!!!! and we will cry out like Isaiah!

Isaiah 6:5 (NKJV)

5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

- When we really understand who we are before God, it will give us the humility to love others!

○ **2nd Gentleness = Meekness**

Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV)

*2 with all lowliness **and gentleness**, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,*

- This word in the KJV is Meekness
- Meekness is not weakness!
 - It has been defined as power under control!
 - The Bible calls meekness a willingness to stand and do the will of God regardless of the cost.
 - Meekness is bowing yourself to the will of God!!!!
- Examples
 - Moses was known as the meekest of all men (Num. 12:3)
 - Yet he got angry when Israel sinned against God (Ex. 32).

- Christ was meek and humble in heart (Matt. 11:29).
 - Yet He became angry because some Jews were using the temple as a place for thieves (Matt. 21:12-13).
- So what does meekness look like in our lives!
 - We stand for truth from a position of strength
 - God's Word is all the power we need.
 - Yet we do so in a way that is not offensive!
- **3rd Longsuffering = Patience**

Ephesians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

- **“Long-tempered” - The ability to endure discomfort without fighting back.**
 - Someone once said that ‘patience’ is “to wait without complaint.”
- **Bearing With One Another**
 - We Christians are to be patient with others...
 - When we believe someone is slow to catch on...
 - When we perceive things in a different way than someone else.
 - When people don't do what we hope or believe that should do
 - Remember -

- What is God was not patient with all of us there would be no one left alive on the face of the earth.
- Know that Each Believer is a SOUL that God's LOVES with everything
- **4th Endeavoring**

Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV)

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Endeavoring
 - Means to maintain; Guard, Zealous Effort, Great pains!
- Unity
 - We will get to in a minutes
- Guard – Unity
 - This is a top priority for us
 - It's going to take effort, and it may be painful to keep unity
- How to endeavor and maintain unity!
- 1st Love God!
 - Ensure our lives are committed and submitted to God!
 - We must love Him, if we ever hope of loving each other!
Keep GROWING
- 2nd Love one another
 - By this all will know you are my disciples by the love you have for one another! (John 13:34-35)
- 3rd Have the fruit of the Spirit evident in your life (Gal. 5:22-26)

- 4th Remember we are all under construction! (Phil. 1:6)
- 5th Do not Gossip! Do not tear believers apart! (Matthew 18)
- 6th It means we can't run at the first sign of trouble!
- 7th Remember Jesus prayed we would be one so the world would know that the Father sent Him. The cause of Christ is at stake! (John 17:21)

• **Third: UNITY = Church Growth vs. 3-6**

Ephesians 4:3–6 (NKJV)

3 *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*

5 *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*

6 *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

○ **1st Define UNITY?**

- The Holy Spirit has made all true believers one in Christ; the Body is indwelt by one Spirit.

▪ **Based On...**

- Holy Spirit
- Based on the TRUTH of God's Word!!
- We are not united with those outside of HIS TRUTH

○ **2nd We CAN'T Manufacture it!**

- We simply need to walk worthy in it!

- ***Stedman, "Once we truly understand where our Christian unity comes from- that it is given by the Holy Spirit, not created by ourselves! Our behavior in the church will be transformed. We begin to realize that our job is not to***

create unity, but to live worthily of the unity of the Spirit that is already ours”.

- Man - Made attempts to create unity
 - WILL ALWAYS FAIL
 - It is what we call the Ecumenical Movement!
- **3rd Unity is NOT Uniformity.**
 - Unity comes from within
 - Uniformity from without! – Stop trying to fit in
 - It's God's Work
 - Body of Christ is great in its differences
 - Only God can pull so many people from all over the world and create this unity!
 - Celebrate it!
 - Illustration
 - Professional Baseball -

○ **4th 7 Truths that make us one Vs. 4-6**

Ephesians 4:4–6 (NKJV)

4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*

5 *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*

6 *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

- Put all the great theologians in one room and begin talking theology and there will fireworks!
- Begin talking about these 7 truths and you will find great unity.

- 1st One Body (v. 4)
 - In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul uses the physical body to explain a spiritual truth
- 2nd One Spirit (v. 4)
 - The same Spirit indwells all of us, And each one of us was baptized in the Spirit at the moment we said yes to Jesus (1 Cor. 12:13)
- 3rd One Hope (v.4)
 - We all have the same hope; Jesus' return we will see His Face and be with each other forever.
- 4th One Lord (v. 5)
 - Jesus is Lord of us all, head of the Body
- 5th One Faith (v. 5)
 - Faith in Christ alone
 - There is one settled body of truth deposited by Christ in His church, and this is "the faith"

Jude 3 (NKJV)

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

- 6th One Baptism (v. 5)
 - Baptism into the body of Christ
- 7th One God & Father (v. 6)
 - His sovereignty / His presence

- God is Above all, through all, and in you all, this means that God is transcendent. He is above His creation; He is not dependent upon His creation.

- **8th Reason for Concern**

- It's HARD to maintain UNITY!!!

- Why?

- Our sinful human nature!
- That nature that is at the center of both the words sin and pride... "I"
- We can be a selfish bunch!!!
- At times All we can see is ourselves!

- Illustrated

- Can you imagine a football team
 - They have just broke the huddle, But instead of lining up against the opposing squad, they break into groups of two or three, arguing with each other.
 - Soon they start shoving, and two of them actually get into a fight. "What's wrong now?" we ask as one of them walks off the field in disgust.
 - "That bunch of malcontents can't agree on anything," he says. "Those two over there are arguing over the color of the uniforms.
 - A couple of others are quarreling over the right way to kneel in the huddle.

- They can't agree whether the individual or the team is more important.
- A couple are fighting over whether women should be allowed to play.
- And I'm quitting because I can pass a lot better than that other guy, and they won't let me be the quarterback."
- Poem; "Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, And Nobody"
 - This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.
 - There was an important job to be done and everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.
 - Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.
 - Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job.
 - Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.
 - It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done
- Sadly this is what the church looks like at times
 - We MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO MAINTAIN UNITY

Stay The Course In Using Your God Given Gifts Vs. 7-10

- **AKA = Be a Contributor NOT a Consumer**

- **First: Gave Gifts**

Ephesians 4:7 (NKJV)

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

- **The Word Grace**

- Grace = Greek Word: Charis –
 - Means: That which affords joy, pleasure, delight; It's not something earned, but something given.
- The Greek word "charismata",
 - Where we get English words like "charisma" or "charismatic". The word means a "work of grace".
- "Grace" here
 - Is a reference to the spiritual gifts that God gives to the church.

- **What are "spiritual gifts"?**

- They are special abilities that the Holy Spirit gives to Christians.
- They are different from natural talents, which are things that a person is born with.
- Each Christian gets the gifts that Jesus wants us to have.
- Some Examples
 - Service / Helps
 - Missions
 - Exhortation (or encouragement!)

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Mercy
- Hospitality
- Giving
- Leadership
- Administration
- Faith
- Intercession
- Music
- Tongues / Miracles / Healing

▪ Found in

- Ephesians 4
- 1 Cor. 12:4-11 and 27-31
- Romans 12:3-8

- These gifts are a result of God's "grace" in our lives. (Romans 12:3-8)

Romans 12:3–8 (NKJV)

- 3** *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*
- 4** *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,*
- 5** *so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*
- 6** *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;*
- 7** *or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;*
- 8** *he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

- **We Are Contributors Not Consumers.**

▪ It is an honor to sacrifice for Christ and His church.

- We give up things we love for things we love even more.

- Every Christian
 - Is essential to the success of the ministry in impacting this generation. (1 Cor. 12:12; Luke 9:23; Phil. 2:29-30; Eph. 4:16)
 - Are we contributing to the community?
 - If you're Concerned about Church GROWTH ask yourself 2 questions
 - 1st How is my Walk with the LORD doing?
 - Growing each Day?
 - 2nd What am I doing to cause Growth?
 - Sharing your faith?
 - Serving the Body?

○ **Why do we get them?**

▪ **1st To Contribute To People “Spiritually” “Build Up”**

- Ultimately, the purpose is to “help the entire church!”

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

▪ **2nd To Serve People “Emotionally”**

Romans 12:15–16 (NKJV)

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NKJV)

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

▪ **3rd To Help People “Physically”.**

Matthew 25:35–36 (NKJV)

35 *for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink;
I was a stranger and you took Me in;
36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in
prison and you came to Me.’*

Matthew 10:42 (NKJV)

42 *And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the
name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his
reward.”*

• **Second V 8 When He Ascended**

Ephesians 4:8 (NKJV)

8 Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”

○ **Paul is quoting from Psalm 68:18.**

▪ Context

- The picture is that of a triumphant warrior who returns from his victory leading a parade of prisoners.
 - This great warrior takes gifts from the conquered people and distributes them to his own people.
- Paul is linking the event we call the “ascension” with the giving of gifts to men.
- After Jesus rose from the dead, He showed Himself to the disciples for a period of forty days, after which He ascended into heaven.

- It was the ascension that triggered the release of the Holy Spirit upon the church. Jesus said (John 16:7 NKJV)
- This is why Jesus told the disciples to “wait” in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). They were going to receive power from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). And with this power came the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

• **Third: vs. 9-10**

Ephesians 4:9–10 (NKJV)

9 *(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?*

10 *He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)*

- What does it mean that He “descended”?
 - Different views
 - **First View:** “Into the lower parts, namely, the earth”.
 - This would refer to Christ’s incarnation, His “descent” to the earth.
 - **Second View:** “Into the parts lower than the earth”
 - This would mean that Christ descended into hades between His death and resurrection.
 - **Third View:** “Into the lower parts which belong to the earth”
 - This would refer to Christ’s death and His burial in the grave.

Stay The Course In Growing “Maturity” Vs. 11-16

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)

*11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

• **First: Some of The Gifts V. 11**

○ **1st Apostle**

- The word means “one who is sent!” the original
- They laid the foundation
- I do not believe there are “apostles” like those in the early church.

○ **2nd Prophecy**

- Prophets were spokesmen or mouthpieces of God.
- They received direct revelations from the Lord and passed them on to the church. What they spoke by the Holy Spirit was the word of God.

○ **3rd Evangelism**

- Evangelism is the ability to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to unbelievers.
- The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

- **4th Pastor – Teacher**

- PASTOR ("Shepherding") –

- The word "pastor" in Greek literally means "to lead and to feed".
 - Means to care for.
 - They are to give their lives for the flock.
- They Are men who serve as under-shepherds of the sheep of Christ.
 - They guide and feed the flock.
 - Theirs is a ministry of wise counsel, correction, encouragement, and consolation.

- TEACHER

- They are men who are divinely empowered to explain what the Bible says, interpret what it means, and apply it to the hearts and consciences of the saints.

- **Second: 5 Characteristic of a mature church!**

- **1st Leaders Equip the Saints**

Ephesians 4:12 (NKJV)

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

- **The main purpose of the Pastors**

- To equip the saints for the work of the ministry.
- The Saints Are To Do It!

- But a lot of churches reverse this plan / Pastors do the work of the ministry
 - Football team again: all huddled around their coach before kick off. A great cheer goes up, then the coach runs out onto the field & all the players stand on the sidelines & cheer him on. He receives the kick...then gets nailed by 11 opposing tacklers!
 - *David Guzik; "Some people think of the church as a pyramid, with the pastor at the top. Others think of the church as a bus driven by the pastor, who takes his passive passengers where they should go. God wants us to see the church as a body, where every part does its share".*
 - What we see today Christians have become paying spectators!
- **So what happens to the church in this state?**
 - The church moves at a snail's pace
 - The people miss the blessing of ministry
 - If the body is not busy, it usually produces busybodies
 - We must get back to God's design
 - Healthy sheep begot healthy sheep!
- **Clarity On Roles**
 - Pastors Role
 - Feed His Sheep John 21
 - Stay Focused on Prayer and Study Acts 6

- Equip the SAINTS for the Work of the ministry Eph. 4

- Board / Staff Role

- Assist in running the church / ministries
- Just as you are doing in your various roles

- Bodies Role

- 1 Cor. 12 Everyone has a part to play / people don't do their part, the body suffers

- **2nd Till we all come to unity... perfect man...**

Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV)

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

- We will never be perfect.
- But we should become more like Jesus, our live should have Christlikeness to them!
- If we are not growing in the Word of God if we have been a Christian for many years and are still child like this is not good! We need to grow!

- **3rd Grounded in Christ**

Ephesians 4:14 (NKJV)

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

- I have seen many Christians who come and go,

- Always looking for the next experience, they feel good, what moves me, they could not sit still for a Bible study, and as a result they never grow!
- We would be stable! Not as little children always need special attention! But growing!

○ **4th Speaking in TRUTH in love**

Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV)

15 *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—*

- It has well been said that truth without love is brutality, but love without truth is hypocrisy.
- We must always remember LOVE and speak the TRUTH

○ **5th All to do the share / Growth**

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

- All doing their part will bring growth

Closing

- So – LET'S KEEP following God's Plan
 - Follow the model the first Church showed us
 - Stay the Course in Unity
 - Stay the Course in Using His Gifts
 - Stay the Course in GROWING / MATURITY
 - Church is a total team effort!

