

Dear Bellefield members, friends and visitors,

I hope you prayed every day the prayer of *Ephesians* 3:14-21. My wife Jan and I did. The prayer wraps you in a reaffirming certainty

**BELLEFIELD  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

of God's love. We all have a deep seated human need for security. Because of your present and eternal acceptance by

God by grace thru faith alone in Jesus Christ, the prayer creates a convinced awareness of your being relentlessly and totally loved by God without needing to change in order to win that love, loved by a love

that is freely given to the point of death

**God's Passion for His Glory is the Measure of His Commitment to Our Joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

on the Cross, a love that cannot be earned and so never can be lost. Today, we see His love leads us into a similar

*significance* that is unalterable. This is

His grace to us His church, because Christ came to save sinners. *Geoff*

## 7. OUR MISSION THIS WEEK: TO USE OUR GIFT AT LEAST ONCE

*Ephesians* 4:7-8—"But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, 'When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.'" When they come from God, grace giftings are not irrelevant or idle offerings. They come with responsibility. Not to fulfill responsibility is to assault identity. But this just isn't your identity alone. It is the identity of the church. But: it is even more: it is the identity of *Christ's* church. The guilt we should feel via constant gift negligence is a real guilt. And yet, the grace that comes repeatedly to cover that guilt is stronger than the guilt itself. For Christ Jesus came to save sinners. And we are they. He has saved us; He has graced us; He has called us. Now we go forth in both 1] His *security*, His love, and 2] in His *significance*, His calling/job, and we build up His great glory in His great church. We are the holy Christ-centered constellation that He has sovereignly called and gifted us to be: *Christ's Bellefield Constellation*.



**Christ pours His grace gift into you; you have it; you can do this—for His church, your joy & His glory.**

## Worship God

November 8, 2009

Fall Focus on *Ephesians*, Part 7

# "You Are a Gifted Star" — In Christ's Bellefield Constellation

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## EPHESIANS 4:1-16

### SERMON MOVES @ A GLANCE

1. Being childish hurts church unity;
2. Childishness exists in today's church;
3. Knowing our significance helps us be mature;
4. Christ brightens the Ephesians with His gifts;
5. Christ's giftings go on today;
6. You are Christ's gift to this church;
7. Use your gift this week.

Someone has said that if the nightingale were the *only* bird to sing in the forest, it would soon be a dull experience. Only one bird, only one song, same song, over and over, just won't make it. It's boring. & yet we see that 8 times God uses this word *one* in the first 7 verses of *Ephesians* 4: *one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God & Father, one another, and each one*. Yes, that's *each one*. Not the same one, not the only one. But rather each *different* one of us making up God's church: this is variety celebrated in the midst of a grace-filled unity that rises from one God. It's anything but boring. It is to be a stellar unity that grows.



**One of the 88 constellations up there in the sky.**

## EACH HAS A GIFT

*Ephesians* 4:7—"But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." This 1 God, 1 Father, 1 Spirit, 1 Savior, Who is passionate for unity, places in each one of you His grace-gift to build His church through you. Again, this is celebrated variety in His unity.

### 1. BEING "CHILDISH" HURTS UNITY

*Ephesians 4:13-14*  
"Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the

waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." God calls the Ephesians to grow up. Scheming hurts. Cunning and craftiness are designed to lead people away from Christ.



We are not to stay toddlers in God's church.

"When you see a toddler, his body is too small for his head."

### 2. "CHILDISHNESS" IN TODAY'S CHURCH

In the context here, we can say that the childishness would be the opposite of the maturity in verses 1-3. So instead of humility (vs.2), pride; instead of gentleness, a lack

of civility, being impoliteness, a meanness; instead of patience, demandingness to have your own way right now; instead of a vigilant maintaining of unity, a divisive bent.

### 3. OUR DEEP NEED: TO KNOW OUR SIGNIFICANCE

*Eph. 3:14-21* meets our need for the *security* of love. Today, God's Word meets our need for the *significance* of meaningful work. God says you *really* are engaged in a responsibility/job that is truly important, whose results will not

evaporate with time, but will last thru eternity. Because you are Christ's gift to His church, your job *really* does have a meaningful impact on others. & you're adequate for it in Him.



Employed or unemployed, we have God's job significance always in us and on us in Christ.

### 4. CHRIST BRIGHTENS THE EPHESIANS WITH HIS GIFTS



Our Bellefield unity is in and around and through Jesus Christ alone: nobody but Him as He graces us with His gifts.

*Ephesians 4:11*—"And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to

the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." The radiance of the Ephesian church was to be an increasing brightness of community for Christ.

### 5. CHRIST'S GIFTINGS GO ON IN ALL IN TODAY'S CHURCH

*Ephesians 4:15-16*  
"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him Who is the head, into Christ, from Whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is

equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." Sovereign grace gifts us; sovereign grace sustains us. In that confidence, we step forth to build His church.

"Truth without love is a hammer; love without truth is empty sentimentality."

### 6. YOU ARE CHRIST'S GIFT & YOU HAVE HIS GIFT—FOR HIS CHURCH

A spiritual gift is 1) an ability to express, celebrate, display and so communicate Christ in a way that builds up the faith of other Christians and enlarges the church; 2) spiritual gifts may be broadly classified as either a gift of speech, or of loving, practical helpfulness. Paul cites teach-

ing and exhorting as gifts of speech, but also he cites serving, giving, leading, and showing mercy as gifts of helpfulness; 3) no Christian is without some gift of ministry. When Christ died to save sinners, He then ascended, and as He did, He gave to His church gifts.



It is a blessing to you and to Bellefield when you unwrap your gift.