

Sermon Title:

“The Blessings and Benefits of Church Membership”

Pastor Don Jennings

Harbour Shores Church

2.7.16

Sermon Text:

Ephesians 4:1-16

Introduction:

- *In this text we discover that there are at least **3 things** that characterize the church the way that God intended for it to be:*

I. The Church Is A Community Of Believers That Has Been Called By God To _____ Together In _____
(vv. 1-6)

- **The reference to our “calling” is actually linked to 2 things:**

1) *Our call to _____* (vv. 4-5)

2) *Our call to the _____* (2:19-22)

- *God not only planned our coming _____, but He also planned our coming _____!*

Our call to _____ was also a call to _____!

- *The word “one” is used no less than _____ times in vv. 4, 5, and 6.*
- *Our unity is one of the powerful and unmistakable ways by which the world _____!*
- ***Psalm 133:1***
- *For either good or bad, God lives in the world through _____!*

II. The Church Is A Community Of Believers That Has Been Equipped By God To _____ Together Into _____
(vv. 7-13)

- *What does the phrase “but to each one of us, grace was given” refer to?*
- *Jesus Christ has placed divinely _____ in His church for the purpose of _____!*
- **Jesus has wonderfully graced the local church in at least 2 ways:**
 - 1) *He has provided spiritually gifted _____ to help His people to mature and to minister.* (v. 12a)
 - 2) *He has provided spiritually gifted _____ to serve the church and build her up.* (v. 12b)

- Ultimately, God has graced the local church for the purpose of producing _____
_____.

Christlikeness involves both “ _____ ” (v. 11) and “ _____ ” (v. 12)

III. The Church Is A Community Of Believers That Has Been Designed By God To _____ Together
In _____ (vv. 14-16)

- The growth of the body of Christ takes place only as each member _____!
- *What exactly is it that we are working for?* (v.16 – “makes the body grow”)
- The Greek word translated “**grow**” is a word that means “**to _____**.” It carries the idea of “**increase in _____ or _____**.”

There is a _____ purpose behind our _____ labor!

- *Colossians 2:19*

Conclusion:

*“Biblical church growth isn’t about **men, methods, or marketing** – it’s about living together in unity, growing together into maturity, and working together in harmony!”*

***Have you begun to experience the blessings
and benefits of church membership?***