

Unity of the Knowledge of Christ
January 23rd & 24th, 2016

Ephesians 4:11-13

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds 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.”

In the previous two messages in the series of Ephesians, we have seen that God gives resources to the church so that the body of Christ can be equipped and built up for ministry. We have learned that in the congregation, every servant (apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers) is a gift and a tool to equip the rest of the saints for the work of ministry. As we grow, there is a goal in the church which is to *“attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.”*

What is the knowledge of the Son of God?

Knowledge: “Cognate: 1922 epígnōsis (from 1909 /epí, ‘on, fitting’ which intensifies 1108 /gnōsis, ‘knowledge gained through first-hand relationship’) – properly, ‘contact-knowledge’ that is appropriate (‘apt, fitting’) to first-hand, experiential knowing.”¹

- ❖ It’s the revelation of grace and truth from God to human kind through the person, ministry and work of Jesus Christ.

John 1:14-18 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, ‘This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.’) For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.”

Hebrews 1:1-3 “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”

John 1:12-13 “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

- ❖ It’s the supernatural experience to become children of God. But it is also a process in which we experience first-hand the attributes and ways of God in our personal life.

Job 42:5 “I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;”

↳ This kind of knowledge is not just theology but a knowledge that becomes a day by day reality in our lives.

- ❖ To know Jesus and to be able to experience Him is and should be the greatest goal to achieve for every Christian.

Philippians 3:10 “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,”

- ❖ To know Jesus is eternal life.

John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Why is it important for us to experience the knowledge of the Son of God?

2 Peter 1:2-3 "May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence,"

↳ Spiritual growth and transformation take place as we experience the knowledge of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?"

↳ God, in the process of revealing Himself through us to other people, uses broken individuals that have experienced in their own life the grace and favor of God in a supernatural way.

↳ Our personal testimony is one of the greatest tools that God has given us to proclaim His greatness.

How can we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God?

Proverbs 2:1-5 "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God."

... by treasuring the Word of God.

📖 *2 Peter 1:4-8*

... by continuously applying what you know from the Word of God into practical spiritual growth.

... by avoiding complacency which is a deadly enemy of spiritual growth!

Endnotes:

¹"Strong's Greek: 1922 ἐπίγνωσις, εως, ἡ (epignōsis)" *Bible Hub*. © 2004 - 2016 by Bible Hub. <<http://biblehub.com/greek/1922.htm>>.

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