

## ***The Goal of Ministry IV: Love (Ephesians 4:16)***

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. Illustration: the Pituitary gland and the development of a baby
  - B. Ephesians 4:16 in context
    - 1. the church
    - 2. the Lordship (Headship) of Christ
    - 3. to a *mature man*
  - C. Course of the sermon
  
- II. **Exegesis and Exposition of Ephesians 4:16**
  - A. ***from whom***
    - 1. *Community!* Yes, but not apart from Christ!
    - 2. Community does not replace Christ
    - 3. Colossians 2:19
    - 4. What is important? The Method or the Message?
  - B. ***the whole body*** – the *corporate* emphasis of this section
  - C. ***joined and knit*** – there is order in unity
  - D. ***every joint supplies*** – there is variety in unity
  - E. ***every part does its share*** – every member employing their gift
  - F. ***edifying itself*** – *building* analogy Eph 2:20-22
  - G. ***in love*** – the *key phrase* of this section (v 2, 15 and 16)
  
- III. **Can we actually love one another?**
  - A. The evangelical church complacency with the *status quo*
    - 1. church is merely a matter of obligation
    - 2. some are too complacent to change
    - 3. some rely on the ‘program’ response
    - 4. for some its all in the head – theological theory of unity is enough
    - 5. some are comfortable with tradition
    - 6. some have no vision for growth (evangelism)
  - B. Keep the ideal of Ephesians 4:1-16 ever before you
  
- IV. **How do we go about loving one another?**
  - A. Strive for unity, but make sure its Biblical unity – based on Christ
  - B. Submit to the Biblical order of authority under Christ’s Headship
  - C. Settle down and become a vital and active member of your church
  - D. Serve and be served; help and be helped; love and be loved
  - E. Discover and fulfill your function in your church
  - F. Study the love of God in Scripture and love as God loves
    - 1. a love that does not consider one’s past
    - 2. a love that is both attractive and offensive
    - 3. a love that gives Himself
    - 4. a love that delights in its object
    - 5. a love that calls the object to holiness and ultimately to God
    - 6. a love that encourages its object to press on
  - G. A final charge to love one another