

PURPOSE & POTENTIAL

CANDIDATE SUNDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2026

Ephesians 4:7-16

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **to equip his people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach **unity** in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the **mature** body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

If Paul were here today, he would remind us that the Church is not just a crowd of individuals, but one Body, united in Christ, growing together into maturity.

All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.

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