

**Biblical
Diversity
Within
Biblical
Unity**

**Differences of
Activities Within
the Body of Christ
on Earth**

Scripture Reading:
Ephesians 4:1-16

INTRODUCTION

- **Diversity among the Body of Christ can be judged as Biblical or Unbiblical.**
- **Unbiblical Diversity**
 - **Accepting and promoting actions and positions that Scripture calls sin and unrighteousness**
 - **A church sign once read “We Honor Diversity.” Old liberalism is now new “progressivism”**
- **Biblical Diversity**
 - **Recognition of different levels of spiritual growth and the different works that God has planned for each believer**

Different Levels of Achieved Maturity

Spiritual growth is a factual necessity

- **II Pet 4:17**

Spiritual growth is a choice

- **Heb 6:1**

Spiritual growth is in stages

- **I Jn 2:12-14**

Different Works that God has Planned for Each Believer

- ▶ Unique, God-planned works for each believer
 - ▶ Eph 2:10; I Cor 12:4
 - ▶ Individual believers will never meet the same people, have the same experiences, or be in the same place at the same time
- ▶ Jesus' foretelling of Peter's future home-going
 - ▶ Jn 21:18-23
- ▶ The parting in ministry of Paul and Barnabas in Acts 15:36-41
 - ▶ Who was right? Who was wrong?
 - ▶ Both? Neither?
 - ▶ Both needed to recognize God's will for the other (cf II Tim 4:11)

CONCLUSION

- ▶ Recognize Biblical diversity within the Biblical unity of the Body of Christ here on Earth without yielding to divisions and schisms based on unbiblical preferences of
 - ▶ personalities
 - ▶ social standings
 - ▶ spiritual gifts
 - ▶ or today, even politics
 - ▶ our true “politics” are in Heaven, Phil 3:20