### Why use MANY when ONE will do?

• Multi tool knife versus a tool chest



### Why use MANY when ONE will do?

- Language: One general word versus many specific words
  - Precipitation, or...
    - Rain, showers, deluge, snow, hail, sleet, freezing rain, ...
  - Same words/forms for everyone, or...
    - Different verb forms for age and honor
  - Get the basic idea across, or...
    - Use just the right word to communicate powerfully and richly

### Why use MANY when ONE will do?

- Some idioms...
  - 多芸は無芸
  - 门门懂, 样样瘟
  - "Jack of all trades, and master of none"
- In the church
  - Find people who can do many things well,
     then cheer them on and get out of their way
  - Or...
- What is God's plan for His church?
- What is God's plan for our church?

# A Diverse Unity Ephesians 4:1-16

Chinese: page 1897 Spanish: page 1492 Brown: page 1175 Green: page \_

#### **Epistles** (letters)

#### "Occasional" books

- Written **to** people in a specific situation
- Written **for** others to learn from
- "Prison letters" (around 62 AD): Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (see Acts 28)

### **Ephesians**

- Church in Ephesus
- Dramatic conversion, leaving "magic" behind



# Ephesians part 1: Theology

- God's will: **unify all things** in Christ and in the church
  - With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will...—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.
  - And God placed all things under Christ's feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
    1:22-23

### Ephesians part 1: Theology

- God's will: **unify all things** in Christ and in the church
- How: **salvation by grace alone** through faith alone, for both Jew and Gentile
  - Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.
     But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

2:3-5

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

# Ephesians part 1: Theology

- God's will: **unify all things** in Christ and in the church
- How: salvation by grace alone through faith alone, for both Jew and Gentile
- Why add Gentiles? To show God's very diverse wisdom
  - This mystery is that through the gospel the **Gentiles are heirs together with Israel**, **members together** of one body, and **sharers together** in the promise in Christ Jesus.

3:6

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.
3:10

# Ephesians part 1: Theology

- God's will: **unify all things** in Christ and in the church
- How: salvation by grace alone through faith alone, for both Jew and Gentile
- Why add Gentiles? To show God's very diverse wisdom
  - To God be glory **in the church and in Christ Jesus** throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. *3:21*

# Ephesians part 1: Theology

- God's will: **unify all things** in Christ and in the church
- How: salvation by grace alone through faith alone, for both Jew and Gentile
- Why add Gentiles? To show God's very diverse wisdom

# Ephesians 4:1-16

- 1-3: Pursue unity in Christ: God's #1 goal: creation & church
  - Complete humility & gentleness
  - Patience: without expecting quick results
  - Bearing in love: seeking God's will in the life of the one you tolerate
  - Every effort to keep unity from Spirit in *peace bonds*

4-6:

7-10:

11-13:

14-16:

Chinese: page 1897 Spanish: page 1492 Brown: page 1175 Green: page \_

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  - Spirit (life), Son (salvation), Father (supreme)

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  - Spirit (life), Son (salvation), Father (supreme)
- 7-10: Christ the victor gives different gifts in different amounts
- 11-13: Equip every single person for God-given work
- 14-16: Result: unity & maturity as every part does its work

### The Big Idea

God's plan to sum up all things in Christ through and for the church means that

we are to live out a deep and active commitment to the unity of the Church and our church

### Application

Make every effort to keep unity among Christians and in our church

- Complete humility: opposite of 'admired high-mindedness'
- Complete gentleness: opposite of roughness
  - Respond to weakness, error, or wrong without arrogance, impatience, or sinful anger
- Patience and bearing with others in love: seeking God's will over time in the life of the one you tolerate
- Make every effort to keep unity purchased by God
- By forming and using every gift given to the church by Jesus

### The Big Idea

God's plan to sum up all things in Christ through and for the church means that

we are to live out a deep and active commitment to the unity of the Church and our church

God's manifold wisdom is put on display for the angels in a multiply diverse church that embodies the unity of God