

Cell Notes

February 14th 2010

In Ephesians, Paul is sketching out a design, God's 'plan' to bring 'all things' together in his Son Jesus Christ (1.9 -10ff), to change *everything* through his church and through and for his Son.

Take a piece of scrap paper and trace this plan through Chs 1 to 3

Now see if you can sketch this plan, God's plan, in your own words?

However, all this wonderful unfolding is not automatic. For the plan to work, we have to be committed to a journey of ongoing change

In the rest of Ch 3 and Ch 4, Paul gives some valuable advice

1. Ch 3 ends with a beautiful and passionate prayer that the fulness and power and love of Christ himself will dwell in the hearts of the Ephesian Christians. This raises the question... *How BIG is the God I pray to? Is my God the same as Paul's God?*
2. Ch 4. vs 1 - 5 Paul pleads for unity. *Why?* Because only so can we truly become the church God wants us to be. Distancing ourselves from our Christian brothers and sisters frustrates the work of God. The way to honour and obey God is not to moan about our fellow Christians but to seek that deep heart unity in the Holy Spirit that he intends.
3. Paul's famous list... the famous '5 fold ministries'
 - *Can you list them without looking?*
 - Some commentators argue that we should understand vs 11 as following straight on from vs 7, (putting vss 8 to 10 in parenthesis). The implication is that these ministries are for all, as well as for the building up of all. All these ministries are needed if the church is to mature. *So, which one could you be?*
4. The language of vss 12 - 16 is very affirmative of a staggering truth. We are each and all to grow up in every way into the 'whole measure of the fulness of Christ' *Can you believe that includes you?*
5. Finally, vss 17 to the end, Paul lists some of the ways in which the old can spoil the new. If we are serious about wanting to grow up to our full stature in Christ, then we need to invite Jesus to show us the things, fears, preoccupations habits of thought and behaviour and what may lie behind them, that are holding us back. That is what Rapha workshops are about. However, the big question is: *How much do I want to change?*

The Church brings change more by what she is than by what she says.

I believe that in our own day God wants to turn his church into something absolutely wonderful and special, that will bring many to Christ. They will come among us and find Christ. We are already a global family. The power of God through the church is awesome. A renewed, revived church will begin to impact society in deep ways, and by what she is and becomes will bring healing to our land and salvation to the planet.