THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
"Stable Christians"
Ephesians 4:14-16

Introduction
1. God has given gifts to the Church (v. 11). It is part of "walking worthy" (v. 1) to give heed to this gift giving by our Lord.

2. These gifts are a key to the development of the Church. They also mediate between the head and the body. Those who minister must acknowledge their divine position. Those who receive ministry should accept the gifts (Jn 13:20).

3. Long range, the gifts perfect the body, bring unity and conformity to Christ (vv. 12, 13). Immediately the gifts provide ministry and edification (v. 12). This immediate concern of the gifts is to bring doctrinal stability. There is to be constant progress in the body. This is done by:

1. NEGATIVE CONCERNS v. 14
   a. No longer babes
      This is a final clause (ἴνα hina). It is spoken of Christians generally. They are to cut their eye-teeth and grow (cf. Heb. 5:11-14). Baby Christianity is abnormal.

   b. No longer unsettled
      The verb "tossed" (κλευδονίζων kludonizomenoi) suggests a ship without a rudder. As waves billow the unstable believer is constantly (περιφερόμενοι periferomenoi present tense) moved. Every blow of doctrine unnerves this kind of believer (cf. Heb. 13:9; James 1:6). What a contrast with the mature man (v. 13).

   c. No longer deceived
      The term "slight" (κυβισῖς kubéissa) means cube or dice, hence "dice playing." It involves an artifice or deception. So the word "craftiness" notes what is characteristic of error. It is all designed to mislead. Paul uses a word here which is only used elsewhere once (6:11). The craftiness is towards a "deliberate system" of deceit (πρὸς τὴν μεθοδείαν pros ten methodian). Surely, this work is Satanic (cf. 6:11).

2. POSITIVE CONCERNS vv. 15,16
   a. Holding
      The verb "speaking truth" (ἀληθεῦντες aleuontes) is better rendered "holding truth." Here is true Christian devotion and commitment to truth. The Scriptures never diminuate truth. It must be done "in love," not bitterness nor prejudice.

   b. Growing
      He is the Head; we are His body. There is to be growth (ἐνz eis "unto" (not "into") Him who is the Head. It is a special way to convey conformity to Christ (cf. v. 13). The "in all things" speaks of all parts or elements of our growth. The more one grows "unto Him," there comes an ever closer cohesion of faith with one another.

   c. Adjusting
      All is centered in the Head. The body members adjust together from Him. This is a process as the present tense notes. It speaks of harmony.

   d. Compacting
      This verb notes inter-adaptation, a bringing together (συναρμολογούμενον sunarmologoumenon). Solidity is also a key word as the verb "compacted" affirms (συμβιβασμένον sumbivazomenon). Members get "put together" firmly and appropriately.

      Note: The adjusting and compacting is accomplished: 1) by the spiritual supply of every joint (believer), 2) by the proportion (κατὰ ἐνέργειάν) of vital power which each part provides. Here is a divine regulatory agency! Thus every part is absolutely essential.

   e. Increasing
      The fact that the body increases (τὴν ὀξώς ten auxesin) is evidence that the body is a living organism. Its growth is due to vital forces within.

   f. Edifying
      Love is the element in which edification takes place. The body is expected to be built up (ὁικοδομήν oikodomén)