Ephesians 4:14-19 God's Desire for His Church

-Paul has given the reason for why gifted men are given to the church in vs.12-13
(the reason is for spiritual growth and conforming to Christlikeness) *it's important to have doctrinal stability, spiritual perception, true regeneration, and direction toward the goal
-in these verses, Paul gives the reason as to why it is so crucial

Vs.14- "children"- children believe almost anything when told to them by an authority figure
-"tossed to and fro"- this depicts instability
(the picture of this phrase is a driftwood on a body of water- controlled by other elements and outside forces)
-"every wind of doctrine"- the wind is what makes the sea violent and causes the driftwood to be tossed
*another thing to note is that the wind never stays the same- changes direction, force, and gusts

Truth- spiritually immature believers who are not grounded in Christ and His Word are most likely to accept forms of false doctrine (this usually comes from deceitful teachers or other immature believers)
-"sleight"-(kubeia) a dice playing term
(Paul uses it metaphorically as dice players were known to cheat and defraud other players)
*it still happens today as the term "loading the dice" means to cheat for personal gain
-"cunning craftiness"- (panourgia) a false wisdom used in deceit that is often masked by a seemingly prudent and skillful tactic
-"lie in wait"- this means that it is done deliberately

Truth- since Scripture wasn't completed then, the true doctrine was given by the apostles, prophets, and evangelists and is now continued by evangelists, pastors and teachers

Vs.15- "in love"- this means there is no gimmicks, trickery, or self-seeking purpose
(love always esteems others above self- Phil.2:2-3)
-"grow up"- (auxano) to increase or become greater (an inward growth)
-"into Him"- spiritual growth always grows one toward Christ and His Word
(this leads to being imitators of Jesus in all areas of life)

Vs.16- "From Whom"- Jesus is the source of life and sustainer of the body- the church

Truth- its from His power that comes the producing of mature, equipped believers
(it doesn't come from the efforts of the believer alone, but from the Head)
-"compacted"- Paul gives another analogy of believers representing a body
(he uses this term to indicate the idea of a firm adhesion to Christ and to other believers)- this is unity
-"effectual working"- just as every part of the body has a function and put in a particular place to perform that function, each believer is placed by God to perform their function (their gift)

Truth- when this takes place, growth and maturity of the whole body is the result
-"edifying"- (oikodome) to build up or make stronger

Vs.17- here, Paul is reminding them that they are different than what they used to be (new creatures)
-"walk not"- he's telling them to let the daily conduct of their lives reflect that new life they have
(all believers should have a different pattern of living than a nonbeliever)
-"vanity"- (mataiotes) devoid of truth, perverse, or depravity
-"of the mind"- sinful acts start in the mind
*the idea of Paul's words here are that unbelievers are intellectually unproductive as spiritual and moral issues are distorted and inadequate that fail to produce Godly understanding

Vs.18- "darkened"- what he means is that nonbelievers cannot distinguish between right and wrong
-"alienated"- (apallotrioo) to be estranged or shut out from fellowship (they've done this to themselves)
-"ignorance"- since the Gospel has been preached to them and many have been converted, for them to remain in this state is their own fault
-"blindness"(porosis) hardness or calloused
*remember, Paul is encouraging the church to not let their manner of life be like this (4:1)

Vs.19- "past feeling"- these have become insensible to spiritual impressions and the appeal to the truth
-"lasciviousness"- (aselgeia) unbridled lust, excess, or a shamelessness-remember the pagan goddess there
-"uncleanness"- another word used to describe their impurity and lustfulness
-"greediness"- this is the impure motive behind such living (this appeals only to the flesh and selfish desires)