



[Ephesians 4:13](#)

(13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

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Perfect unity will not occur until we all believe and know, and therefore act, like our elder brother, [Jesus Christ](#). This is why the ministry goes over the same territory [Sabbath](#) after Sabbath—because we have not reached perfect unity yet. We have by no means "come to the unity of the [faith](#) and the knowledge of the Son of [God](#)." We have not come "to a perfect man." We have not come "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," so the ministry keeps on preaching. It is its job, and if the preaching of it becomes trite, repetitive, boring—sorry, that is the ministry's job.

Ministers have to keep going over it until the perfect man is produced in the body of Christ. We will probably never reach it in this life, so church members should get used to hearing the same old [sermons](#) every week. It is hoped that ministers can come at it from new angles, provide deeper knowledge, explain things in a little bit better way each time, and make it seem fresh and interesting. But God, who gave the ministry this goal, desires that we strive to attain it, and so the ministry, if it is going to be faithful, will keep on preaching because it is in everyone's best interest that it do so. We all want to be in God's Kingdom.

It is obvious that the church has not reached perfect unity, and in fact, some of us have regressed in recent years. We can easily see this because, though Christ is not divided, the church is. We have schisms, and schisms are there to prove who is on His side. Paul says there must be schisms, factions, [heresies](#), in the church because they expose, make manifest, those who are really following Christ ([I Corinthians 11:19](#)). The goal is that there be no divisions ([I Corinthians 12:25](#)), but Paul tells us that there will be, and that is the way God set up the church.

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

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