

The Call For Unity

Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians Should Be Unified In Christ

A. Unity In The Body (4:1-3)

1. The encouragement (4:1)

a. Paul's perspective

Ephesians 3:1

b. Paul's plea

1 Corinthians 1:10

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A. Unity In The Body (4:1-3) - continued

2. The emphasis (4:2)

a. The requirements

1). Humility

Philippians 2:3-4

2). Meekness

James 3:13

3). Longsuffering

1 Corinthians 13:4

b. The result

Colossians 3:13

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A. Unity In The Body (4:1-3) - continued

3. The effort required (4:3)

a. Its constancy

2 Peter 1:10

b. Its consequence

2 Peter 3:14

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B. Unity In Doctrine (4:4-6)

1. One Spirit (4:4)

Romans 8:14-16

a. Of leading (v 14)

b. Of belonging (v 15)

c. Of testifying (v 16)

2. One Lord (4:5)

a. Faith in Christ

Romans 5:1

b. Baptized in Christ

Romans 6:3

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B. Unity In Doctrine (4:4-6) - continued

2. One Lord (4:5)

a. Faith in Christ

Romans 5:1

b. Baptized in Christ

Romans 6:3

3. One God (4:6)

Colossians 1:12-13

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C. Unity In Function (4:7-16)

1. Gifts from God (4:7-10)

a. Universal (v 7)

b. Unmatched (v 8)

c. Unstoppable (vv 9-10)

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C. Unity In Function (4:7-16)

2. Growth from the gifts (4:11-16)

a. The people (v 11)

b. The purposes (v 12)

c. The perfection (vv 13-16)

1). A continuing process (v 13)

2). A convincing process (v 14)

3). A compassionate process (v 15)

4). A contributing process (v 16)

Work With God And Work For God

The Life Of The Called
Ephesians 4:17-32

Christians Should Live Worthy Of Their Calling

I. Discard The Old Life (4:17-19)

A. Futility of the mind (4:17)

Ephesians 4:17

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

I. Discard The Old Life (4:17-19)

A. Futility of the mind (4:17)

1. A perverse state

1 Timothy 6:5

Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

2. A passed state

Ephesians 2:2

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

I. Discard The Old Life (4:17-19)

B. Darkness in understanding (4:18)

Ephesians 4:18

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

I. Discard The Old Life (4:17-19)

B. Darkness in understanding (4:18)

1. A lack of interest

Romans 1:21

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

2. A lot of ignorance

Romans 1:28

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

I. Discard The Old Life (4:17-19)

C. Indulgence in sin (4:19)

Ephesians 4:19

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

I. Discard The Old Life (4:17-19)

C. Indulgence in sin (4:19)

1. No conscience

1 Timothy 4:2

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

2. No control

Proverbs 25:28

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

II. Develop A New Mindset (4:20-24)

A. Learning from Christ (4:20-21)

Ephesians 4:20-21

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

II. Develop A New Mindset (4:20-24)

A. Learning from Christ (4:20-21)

1. By hearing

Proverbs 1:5

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

2. By heeding

Psalms 86:11

Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

II. Develop A New Mindset (4:20-24)

B. Renewed in the spirit of the mind (4:22-24)

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

II. Develop A New Mindset (4:20-24)

B. Renewed in the spirit of the mind (4:22-24)

1. A permanent change (v 22)

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2. A practiced change (v 23)

2 Corinthians 4:6

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

II. Develop A New Mindset (4:20-24)

B. Renewed in the spirit of the mind (4:22-24) – cont'd

3. A perceived change (v 24)

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

III. Demonstrate The New Life (4:25-32)

A. Speak truthfully (4:25)

Ephesians 4:25

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Matthew 5:37

But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

III. Demonstrate The New Life (4:25-32)

B. Control anger (4:26-27)

Ephesians 4:22-23

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

III. Demonstrate The New Life (4:25-32)

B. Control anger (4:26-27)

1. Rage righteously (at sin)

Psalm 4:4

Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

2. Release anger quickly

Hebrews 12:15

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

III. Demonstrate The New Life (4:25-32)

B. Control anger (4:26-27) - continued

3. Regard the danger of anger

Acts 8:22-23

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

III. Demonstrate The New Life (4:25-32)

C. Show kindness and forgiveness (4:28-32)

1. Through labor (v 28)

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

2. Through language (v 29)

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

III. Demonstrate The New Life (4:25-32)

C. Show kindness and forgiveness (4:28-32) - continued

3. Through love by God's grace (vv 30-32)

a. Grace that seals

Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

2 Timothy 1:9

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

III. Demonstrate The New Life (4:25-32)

C. Show kindness and forgiveness (4:28-32)

3. Through love by God's grace (vv 30-32) - continued

b. Grace that conquers hate (v 31)

Ephesians 4:31

**Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour,
and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:**

Romans 5:20

**Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound.
But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:**

III. Demonstrate The New Life (4:25-32)

C. Show kindness and forgiveness (4:28-32)

3. Through love by God's grace (vv 30-32) - continued

c. Grace that forgives (v 32)

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Live A Life Pleasing To Christ