



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

United in Christ

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Ephesians 4:2-3 (NIV)**

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Paul calls believers to live consistently with their calling in Christ. Here he describes the humility, gentleness, patience, and love that protect the church's shared life. Unity is a gift of the Spirit to preserve, not an argument to win. This does not make truth unimportant or every interpretation equally sound. It calls us to seek truth faithfully while treating one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out about the community's willingness to open their Bibles, ask questions, and still show respect? How could your next disagreement reflect that example?
- When someone challenges your understanding of Scripture, what makes it difficult to listen before preparing a response? Which attitude in Ephesians 4:2 do you most need?
- How can you tell the difference between defending a conviction and defending your pride? What would a humble, truthful response look like?
- How can a group welcome newer believers and hard questions while still taking Scripture seriously? What helps people feel free to say, 'I may have missed something'?
- What might someone watching your conversation learn about Jesus from the way you disagree? What should remain visible after the conversation is over?

Reflection Challenge

Choose one conversation this week in which you disagree with another believer. Make understanding, faithfulness to Scripture, and love your goals. Practice one change in how you listen or respond, then reflect on whether it helped you pursue truth with grace.

Ask yourself:

- Am I trying to understand this person, or am I mainly waiting for my turn to speak?
- What in my view comes from the passage itself, and what might be an assumption I need to examine?
- Would this person still recognize my love and respect if we leave the conversation disagreeing?

Try this:

- Read the passage being discussed in its surrounding context before replying. Write down one honest question you still have.
- Ask the other person to explain their understanding. Summarize it fairly and let them clarify before you respond.
- Name something you appreciate or have learned. If you spoke harshly or made an unfair assumption, apologize specifically.
- End with a sincere word of thanks. Continue showing ordinary kindness afterward, even if the disagreement remains.

Remember

- Our unity comes from Christ, not from winning every argument.
- Truth matters, and so does the way we seek it.
- Humility leaves room to listen, learn, and be corrected.
- Firm conviction can be expressed with gentleness and patience.
- A disagreement does not turn a brother or sister into an enemy.
- Our main goal is to follow Jesus.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing us together in Christ. Give us humble hearts when our understanding is challenged. Teach us to listen carefully, handle Your Word faithfully, and speak with gentleness. Show us where pride is shaping our responses, and help us receive correction. Keep our convictions rooted in truth and our relationships marked by patience and love. May people who watch our conversations see that we belong to Jesus. Help us follow Him even when agreement does not come easily.

In Jesus' name, Amen.