

The graphic features a background of overlapping organic shapes in teal, brown, and beige. A large, thin brown circle is centered behind the text. The word 'EASTER' is written in a large, white, serif font, and 'AT GRACE TABLE' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

EASTER  
AT GRACE TABLE



# *Ephesians*

THE CHURCH IN *CHRIST*



## *Ephesians 4:17-32*

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self,[a] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.



## *Ephesians 4:17-32*

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



## *New Identity vs. 17-24*

- We don't live as we once did b/c we have been given a new identity.

Ephesians 4:17 (EBC Eph-Phm): Christians constitute a third race that is neither Jewish nor Gentile. In other letters Paul has not been slow to remind Hebrew Christians that they must not cling to the grave clothes of Judaism.

- A continued pursuit of self-indulgence and ignoring the promptings of God to follow Christ is the friction that brings about the hardening of heart and mental fog of ignorance.

Callous = repeated exposure to friction creating hardness

-Numbing effect causing insensitivity and licentiousness

V 20 "But that is not the way you learned Christ

Take off the grave clothes (and burn them) [DECEITFUL DESIRES]

Put on New Clothes [RIGHT-EOUSNESS & HOLINESS]



## *How To Live vs. 25-32*

Christians should not only live differently but also for different reasons.

These practical exhortations:

- They are relational. Given the context of 4:1-16 these are in light of our new identity building and maintaining **UNITY**.
- He replaces a negative action of old with a new positive action. Holiness isn't just saying no to sin but also saying yes to God.
- He also ties these to theological reasons leaving no room for simple behavior modification. (Side note: great parenting hack)



# 5 Unifying Exhortations

## 1. Replace Lying with Honesty (4:25)

- Few things destroy unity like dishonesty
- God is Trustworthy = We are to be trustworthy
- Falsehood undermines unity; Truth strengthens unity

*“When you tell the truth, you are imitating God, when you lie you are imitating Satan.”*

-Tony Merida



## *5 Unifying Exhortations*

### 2. Replace Unrighteous Anger with Righteous Anger 4:26-27

- Righteous indignation is a holy anger against sin.

Jesus set the example:

And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. -Mark 3:4-5





## *5 Unifying Exhortations*

### 2. Replace Unrighteous Anger with Righteous Anger 4:26-27

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. [13] He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." -Matthew 21:12-13



## *5 Unifying Exhortations*

### 2. Replace Unrighteous Anger with Righteous Anger 4:26-27


Paul gives us some qualifiers for Righteous Anger:

- “Do not sin” anything dishonoring to God publicly; self righteous anger vs anger towards the injustice of another
- “Don’t let the sun go down on your anger” Resolve it quickly even good anger can lead to bitterness.
- “Don’t give the Devil an opportunity” resolve conflict and reconciliation quickly as it will spread like cancer killing unity.



## 5 Unifying Exhortations

### 3. Replace Stealing with Honest Work and Generosity 4:28

- Stealing was typical in first century Asia esp. among seasonal/ day laborers
- Pay check to pay check — We must put off the temptation to steal in order to survive
- Honest work is good for the soul; there is a peacefulness it brings.
- “Work as hard as you can, make as much as you can, then give as much as you can.” -John Wesley
- Our new Identity is one of generosity b/c He has been generous towards us. 

## *5 Unifying Exhortations*

### 4. Replace Corrupting Talk with Edifying Talk

- But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. -Matthew 15:18
- Examples: lying, abusive language, vulgar references, vicious and unkind words, gossip and slander...
- The Christian life involves the constant encouragement of others. Encouragement is one of the greatest Unity building tools that we've been given and costs us very little to use.



## *5 Unifying Exhortations*

### 5. Replace Bitterness and Rage with Kindness and Forgiveness

- We are to take action in putting off: resentful attitudes, festering anger and outbursts, public shouting, abusive language, and hostility.



## *Be Reminded*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.  
-Titus 3:4-5

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful love. -Psalm 145:8



## *Be Reminded*

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. -Psalm 130:3-4

We are to put on kindness and forgiveness, encouragement and gratitude, compassion with genuine care for another human being created in His image b/c this is what He's done for us.



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## *Be Reminded*

- HOW EFFECTIVE COULD WE BE IF WE COMMIT TO THIS DISTINCTIVE TOGETHER???
- As Paul prayed in ch 3, it will be HIS power at work in us to accomplish these things. We need to spend time with the Father to live this way with one another; to be sent out as an empowered people filled with kindness and forgiveness and good news.
- WE HAVE BEEN MADE NEW! LETS CLOTHE OURSELVES IN HIS LIKENESS!

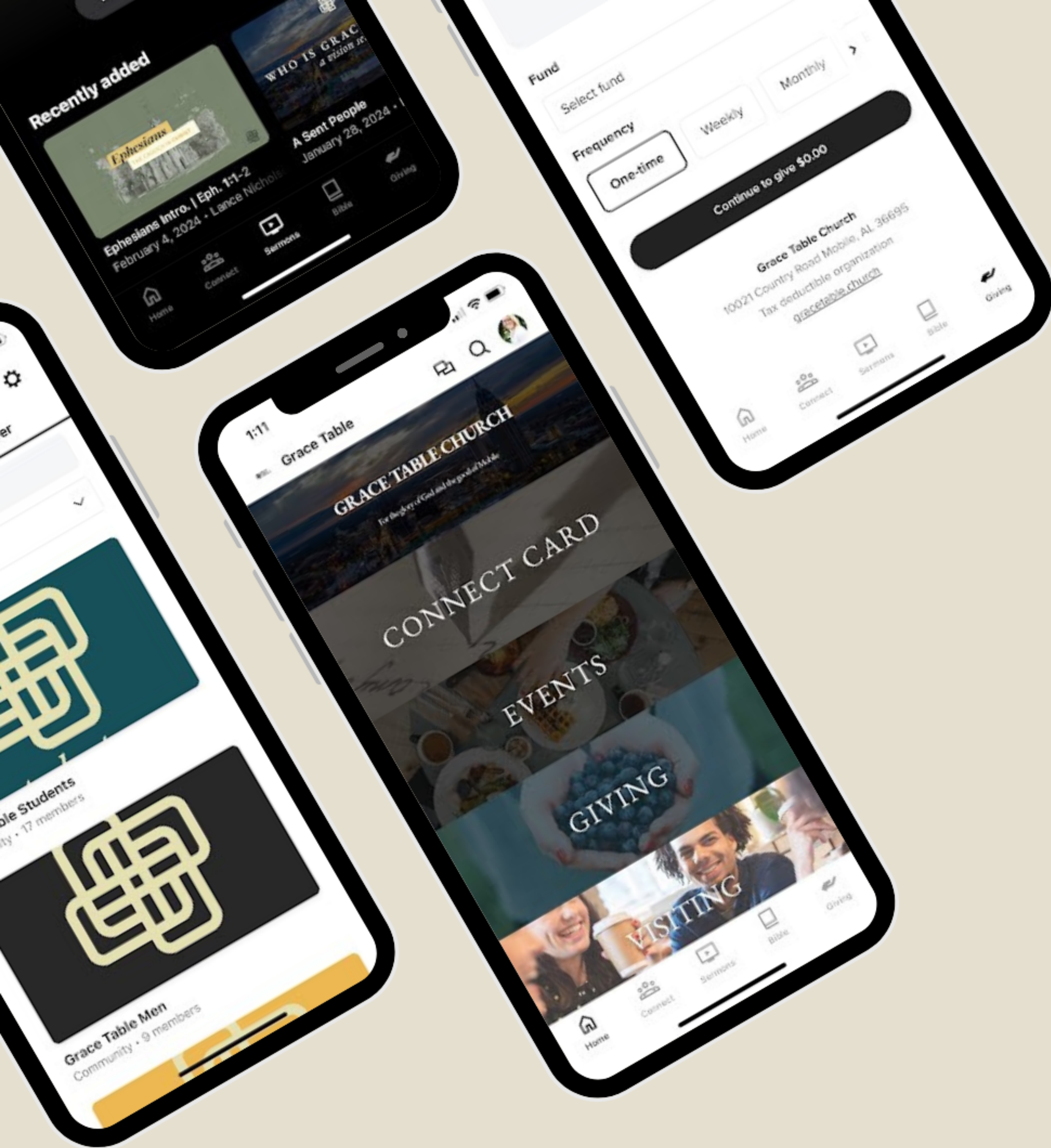




# *Ephesians*

THE CHURCH IN *CHRIST*





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