

PART 7 HANDOUT Ephesians 4:1-16 Let's Walk Together

Paul's letters Contain a Perfect Balance Between Doctrine and Duty...Ephesians 1-3 deal with Doctrine and Our Riches in Christ...While Chapters 4-6 Explain Duty, and Our Responsibilities in Christ. **The Key Word in the last Half of the Book is WALK, while the Key Idea in the First Half was Wealth. VS 1-16**

In Chapters 4-6, Paul Admonishes Us to Walk in Unity, Purity, Harmony, and Victory. **KEY:** The Christian life is based on Knowledge, and Understanding Bible Doctrine makes it easier it is to Obey Bible Duties.

- **What You Believe...Determines How You Behave!** We are to Live Up To Our Calling in Christ.

The Main Idea in These First 16 Verses is the “Unity of Believers in Christ”. Our Responsibility is to Guard, Protect, and Preserve the Unity! To do this, **We Must Understand 4 Important Facts**

Vs 1-3 The Grace of Unity: Unity is Not Uniformity. Unity Comes from Within, While Uniformity is the Result of Pressure from Without. If we're Going to Preserve the Unity of the Spirit...We Must Possess the Necessary, Christian Graces...**And There are Seven of them Listed Here.**

- **Humility.** Humility means putting Christ First others Second and Self Last. It means Knowing ourselves, Accepting ourselves, and Being Ourselves to the Glory of God.
- **Meekness Not Weakness.** It is Power Under Control. *Like a tamed Horse “Strength Under Control!”*
- **For Us it is to Humble Ourselves And Allow God the Holy Spirit to Use Us for Gods Glory!**
- **Long Suffering,** Long Tempered. The Ability to Endure Discomfort Without Fighting Back.
- **Forbearance** is a Grace that Cannot be Experienced Apart from Love.
- **Endeavor.** *Literally, it reads being Eager to Maintain, or Guard, the Unity of the Spirit.* The Verb is a Present Participle, which means “We Must Constantly Be Endeavoring to Maintain this Unity”.
- **PEACE**-The Bond of Peace. James 3 & 4, provide a vivid treatment of war and peace in the New Testament. *It Notes that the Reason for War on the Outside is Because There Is War On the Inside!*
- **KEY:** If a Believer Cannot Get Along with God, he Cannot Get Along with Brothers and Sisters... *When the Peace of God Rules in Our Hearts, then We Build Unity.*

2. The Ground of Unity. Vs 4-6 Many people attempt to unite Christians in a Way that is not Biblical...they say we are *Not Interested in Doctrine, But in Love*. Let's Forget Our Doctrine and Just Love One Another!

- Unity built on anything other than the Truth [doctrine]...Is Standing on A Very Shaky Foundation."

Paul names the 7 Basic Spiritual Realities that Unite All True Christians:

- **One Body:** This is the body of Christ in which each believer is a member, placed they're at Conversion by the Spirit of God (1Cor 12:12-31) The “One Body” is the Model for the Many local bodies that God has Established Across the world. The fact that a person is a member of the “One Body” does Not Excuse him from Belonging to a Local Body.
- **One Spirit:** The same Holy Spirit Indwells each Believer, so that We Belong to each other in the Lord. The Holy Spirit is Important as He Empowers Us to Live Like Christ.
- **One Hope of your Calling:** This refers to the return of the Lord to take His Church to Heaven. The Holy Spirit Within Us is the Assurance of this Eternal Promise. The Believer who Realizes the Existence of the One Body, Walks in the Spirit and Looks for the Lord's Return, is a Peacemaker.
- **One Lord:** It is Difficult to Believe that 2 Believers Can Claim to Obey the Same Lord and Yet Not Be Able to Walk Together in Unity.
- **One Faith:** There is one settled body of Truth, Deposited by Christ in His Church, and *this is the Faith. Jude 3 calls it the Faith which was Once Entrusted Unto All the Saints.*
- **In 2 Tim 2:2** The early Christians recognized a body of basic doctrine that they taught, guarded, and committed to others. Christians may differ in some matters of interpretation and church practice; But All True Christians Agree On, "The Faith."
- **One Baptism:** This One Baptism is probably the Baptism of the Spirit when He Places the Believing Sinner into the body of Christ at Conversion. (1 Cor 12:13). *This is Not An Experience After Conversion ...Nor Is it An Experience the Believer Should Pray For and Seek After.*

- **One God and Father:** God is Overall, and Working through All, and In All. As Children in the Same Family, Loving and Serving the Same Father, We Ought to Be Able to Walk Together in Unity.

3. The GIFTS of Unity: In VS 7-11 Paul Moves from what Christians have in Common to how Christians Differ from Each Other. When you were born, God gave you certain natural abilities, perhaps in mechanics, art, athletics, or music. In this regard, all men are Not created equal. In the Spiritual Realm, Each Believer has at Least One Spiritual Gift, No Matter what Natural Abilities he or she may or may Not Possess.

- A *Spiritual Gift is a God-given Ability to Serve God and Other Christians in such a way that Christ is Glorified and Believers are Identified.* A Believer Discovers and Develops his/her Gifts By Fellowship with Other Christians in the Local Assembly. >>>This is Why Christians are Not to Live in Isolation!

In Addition God Provided Special Gifts to Those Who Can Equip His Church: Vs 11-13 Here, Paul named the gifted men God has placed in the church and there are four of them:

Apostles: The word means one who is sent with a commission. Jesus had many disciples, but he selected 12 apostles. An Apostle is Divinely appointed representative who saw Christ. There are no Apostles today. God Authenticated these men with special miracles and they laid the foundation of the church. As Disciples we have been given the job to share the Truth... **But We Must NOT Claim to be Apostles!**

Prophets: We commonly associated Prophets with Predictions of future events, but this is Not their Primary Function Today. A New Testament Prophet is one who Proclaims (Not Predicts) the Word of God.

- "The Purpose of Prophecy is Edification, Encouragement, and Consolation." **Eph 2: 18-20**

Evangelist--Bearers of the Good News! These men traveled from place to place to preach the Gospel and Win the Lost. In the early church, every believer was a witness, and so should we be witnesses today.

Pastors and Teachers: Pastor means Shepherd indicating that the local church is like a flock of sheep, and it is his Responsibility to Feed and Lead the flock. Teacher is another name for Pastor. He does this by means of the Word of God, the Food that Nourishes, Guides and Disciplines the body.

4. The Growth of Unity VS 12–16. He saw the body of Christ, made up of all true believers, growing gradually, until it reaches spiritual maturity...the fullness of Christ. He also saw the local body of believers ministering to each other growing together and thereby experiencing spiritual unity.

>>Gifted Leaders Equip the Saints into the Work of the Ministry, Unto the Building Up of the Body of Christ.

- To Create Stability so Christians are not tossed about by every religious novelty that comes along.
- The Evidence of Maturity is Truth Joined with Love: Speaking the Truth in Love. It is a Mark of Maturity when We are Able to Share the Truth with Fellow Christians, and Do it in love. **Pr 27:6**
- **The evidence of Maturity is Cooperation:** As Members of the One Body, We Belong to Each Other, Affect Each Other, and Need Each Other. **"Each Believer, No Matter how Insignificant he may Appear, has a Ministry to Other Believers".**

POINT: The Body Grows as Each Individual Member Grows, and Together We Grow as We Feed on the Word and Minister to Each Other."

Love is a circulatory system of the body. It has been discovered that isolated, neglected babies do not grow properly and are especially susceptible to disease. While babies who are loved and handled, grow normally and are stronger. So it is with the children of God. An isolated Christian Cannot Minister to Others, nor can others minister to that Individual...It Is Impossible for the Gifts to be Ministered Either Way.

- *Therefore, speaking the Truth in Love, Let Us Equip One Another, and Edify One Another that All of Us May Grow Up to Be More Like Christ.*

LIFE POINT: Spiritual Unity is Not Something We Manufacture. It is Something We Already Have In Christ and We Must Protect and Maintain It.