

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Unity in the Body

I. Introduction:

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
God's sovereignty (1:1, 1:4-5, 1:9, 1:11, 1:14)	The doctrine of depravity (2:1-3, 2:5)	The gospel: a mystery revealed (3:3-6, 3:9-10)
The Trinity (1:3, 1:13, 1:17)	God's mercy (2:4)	God's sovereignty (3:2, 3:7)
The doctrine of election/predestination (1:4-5, 1:11)	God's love (2:4)	The riches of Christ (3:8)
The doctrine of adoption (1:5, 1:18)	God's grace (2:5, 7-9)	The doctrine of creation (3:9)
The doctrine of redemption (1:7, 1:18)	The doctrine of regeneration (2:5)	God's eternal plan (3:5, 3:11, 3:21)
God's eternal plan (1:4, 1:8-10, 1:21)	The doctrine of salvation (2:5, 2:8-9)	The Trinity (3:14-17)
God's omniscience (1:8)	The doctrine of the atonement (2:16-19)	God's love (3:18-19)
God's omnipotence (1:19-20)	The doctrine of the church (Ecclesiology) (2:11-22)	God's omniscience (3:20)
The resurrection (1:20)		
The deity of Christ (1:21-22)		

II. Prisoner for the Lord

❖ Ephesians 4:1--*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord...*

- Paul is simply stating his credentials. He is saying, "I am going to tell you how you ought to live your life now and I have the right to because I am, myself, imprisoned for Christ."

III. Walk in a manner worthy of the call

❖ Ephesians 4:1--*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,*

 **What is Paul saying? What does this phrase mean?**

1. Does it mean that God has called you to a great thing so you better act like it? God has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, So get SHINY LOOKING!
2. Or...Does it mean that we are to be so enamored with God's call, that we live our lives to is such a great thing that we should desire to live in a way that displays it.
 - God has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. I want to be the light of the world that his glory would be known.

IV. What does this look like?

❖ Ephesians 4:2-3--*with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*

1. Humility

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Unity in the Body

2. Gentleness
3. Patience
4. Bearing with one another
5. Eager to maintain unity--Paul camps out on this one

V. Why is unity important?

- ❖ Ephesians 4:4--*There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all*



One body, one hope, one faith, one baptism. This is the design of God stated in previous chapters.



Christian unity is to portray the unity of our triune God

VI. How is unity maintained?

- ❖ Ephesians 4:7-8--*But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men*
- ❖ Ephesians 4:11-13--*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God*
- ❖ Ephesians 4:15--*Rather, speaking the truth in love*

VII. What is the unity we speak of?

- ❖ Ephesians 4:13-14--*until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*



What is the basis of our unity? Sound Doctrine

1. Knowledge of the son of God
2. Mature manhood. Is this really speaking doctrinal stability? Yes! How do we know? Paul goes on to state that the immaturity he seeks the people to grow out of is doctrinal.

VIII. What does unity cause?

- ❖ Ephesians 4:15-16--*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love*



Maturity in Christ



The body assembled properly and working properly



The body grows itself, it does not require our modern gimmicks