

United We Win

Sunday September 21, 2025

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Ephesians 4:1-3 (NLT) Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Introduction: Paul begs the Ephesian believers to make every effort to stay united in the Spirit. Unity isn't a small thing, its core to the church.

We are always stronger when we walk together. The spirit of division will always weaken the church and its mission.

This isn't true only for the church but also our small groups, families and communities.

The enemy is always working to pull the church off mission. He looks for ways to divide marriages, ruin families and weaken communities.

Context: Paul isn't ignorant to the enemy's devices. He is in prison because of his faith in Christ, not because the Romans saw him as treat, but because of opposition from his own people and contemporaries. They rejected him because he preached a message that challenged their traditions and confronted their beliefs.

Paul's message pointed, both Jews and Gentiles, to a unified family relationship in Christ.

Ephesians 2:14 (NLT) For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

Ephesians 2:21-22 (NLT) We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 3:6-7 (NLT) And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.

⁷ By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News.

This message of unity in Christ of both Jew and Gentiles was not received well. So, the religious leaders falsely accused Paul of dishonoring the Jewish law, stirring up trouble in the city and posing a public threat. (Acts 21, 24).

Even in prison, Paul wasn't focused on his own life but on the church. He knows the enemy seeks to divide believers to distract them from their mission as ambassadors of Christ.

The gospel is advanced when the church stands united, together we are strong, but divided we will fail.

What is the unifying factor and source of our strength as believers?

1. Our Strength of unity Comes from God's Blessing

Ephesians 4:1 (NLT) Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

Before Paul commands us to walk in unity, he reminds us of the blessings we share in Christ:

- He chose us before the foundation of the world (1:4).
- He adopted us into His family (1:5-6).
- He redeemed and forgave us through His blood (1:7).
- He sealed by the Spirit as His possession (1:13-14).

Notice: these blessings are plural. We are not saved into isolation but into a family.

When we come together on Sunday's or meet in our small group's during the week spiritual family becomes real.

It is in these moments that we are reminded: we are not walking alone, we are part of God's chosen, adopted, redeemed, and Spirit-filled people. That's why we are stronger together.

It's also in these settings, especially the smaller ones like small groups or one-on-one conversations, that God works to shape us. He challenges us, refines us, and grows us into Christlike character.

2. Our Strength Grows in a Community

Ephesians 4:2 (NLT) Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Paul lists the attitudes that protect unity:

- Humility – not thinking of ourselves better than others. (Rom 12:3)
- Gentleness – speaking truth without tearing each other down. (Eph 4:15)
- Patience – walking with one another through long seasons of struggle. (Gal 6:1-20)
- Love – covering one another's faults and failures with grace. (1 Peter 4:8)

It is so important to be part of a community of believers who reflect Jesus. A community that understands the power of unity.

When we are united, we strengthen one another, helping each other stay faithful and focused on Jesus.

Unity is our strength and that strength must be protected and guarded with effort.

3. Our Strength Must Be Guarded with Effort

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT) Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Paul's exhortation to make every effort, shows that unity and harmony, though essential, do not come easily. They require intentional pursuit and diligent effort.

Unity doesn't just happen, it takes work. It's not just an idea but something we practice. And when we do, families, churches, and communities are strengthened.

4. Our Strength Impacts the World

Paul continues: "There is one body and one Spirit... one hope... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all." (Eph. 4:4-6)

Unity isn't just about making church life more pleasant. It's much bigger than that. Our unity becomes our testimony.

Listen to Jesus' prayer:

John 17:21-23 (NLT) I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one, as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. ²² "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

Jesus connects the credibility of the gospel to the unity of His people. The world will believe or doubt the message of Christ based on the unity they see among His followers.

- **Unity reveals the Gospel.** A united church points to Jesus' mission.
- **Unity demonstrates God's love.** The way we love each other points to God's love for the world.
- **Unity brings credibility to our witness.** Actions speak louder than words.

That means unity isn't just about us getting along, it's about advancing the kingdom. How will we carry the gospel to a broken world when we are fractured and divided? It is only when we are united as a church that becomes a powerful force for Christ.

The world is watching. They don't just want to hear about Jesus; they want to see Him. And they see Him most clearly when His people stand together as one.

Conclusion: Unity is not optional; it's critical. We are chosen, adopted, redeemed, and sealed as one family in Christ. Our strength grows in community, is guarded by effort, and becomes a testimony to the world. Alone we are weak, but together in Christ we are strong.