

Fundamentals

Ephesians 4:1-10

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June 21-22, 2014

Unity = members of a local church being unified in purpose, cooperating together to move toward that purpose, all the while, treating each other with love and respect

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men. ⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Ephesians 4:1-10 (New International Version)

Paul describes **three elements of unity**.

Element #1: LIVE UP TO YOUR CALLING. (Ephesians 4:1)

By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3b (New English Translation)

Element #2: GUARD THE UNITY OF YOUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.
(Ephesians 4:3)

Practical Steps to Guard Unity

- Actively demonstrate love to the believers in your local church family.
(Ephesians 4:2)
- Unite around foundational truths of the faith. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Element #3: USE YOUR GIFTS TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH. (Ephesians 4:7-10)

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith . . . and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants . . . ¹⁵. . . we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)