

Meaningful Membership

What it Means to be the Church

Unity of the Body; An Essential Necessity

Ephesians 4:1-6 and 25-32



Library of Celsus in Ephesus,
with yours truly

The view the other way
up "main street" in Ephesus



The Great Theater
in Ephesus, Turkey

¹I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, ³being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

(Ephesians 4:1-6)

Outline of Ephesians 4:1-6

1. The Calling
2. The Walking
3. The Goal

Digging Deeper

1. The Calling *(the theme of Ephesians 1)*

- We are chosen by the Father.
- We are redeemed by the Son.
- We are sealed by the Spirit.

Digging Deeper

2. The Walking

Walk in a manner worthy of the calling

- From a foundation of love, walk:
 - in humility,
 - with gentleness,
 - with patience, and
 - showing forbearance.

Digging Deeper

3. The Goal

Preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

- Remember, there is:
 - * one body * one Spirit
 - * one hope * one Lord
 - * one faith * one baptism
 - * one God and Father over all

²⁵Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need. ²⁹Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you.

(Ephesians 4:25-32)

Pursuing Unity - Some Specifics (1 of 2)

- Speak the truth.
- Be angry but do not sin.
- Do not let the sun go down on your anger.
- Work honestly to share with others.

Pursuing Unity - Some Specifics (2 of 2)

- Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth.
- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.
- Se aside all bitterness, wrath, ...
- Be kind to one another.
- Forgive one another.

How does this play out in real life?

Let me share some examples from elders' meetings.

Consider this another "Elders' Update."

Our Challenge

- How is the Lord convicting you to pursue unity of the Spirit in the body of Christ at Crossroads Bible Church?
- What are some specific steps you can take today, this week, this month, ...?