

Unity in the Church (*"Unity: Say What?"*) *Ephesians 4:1-16*

Outline

1. Exhortation to Unity (vs. 1-3)
2. Explanation of Unity (vs. 4-6)
 - * The Person of the Holy Spirit *
3. Means for Unity: Gifts (vs. 7-16)

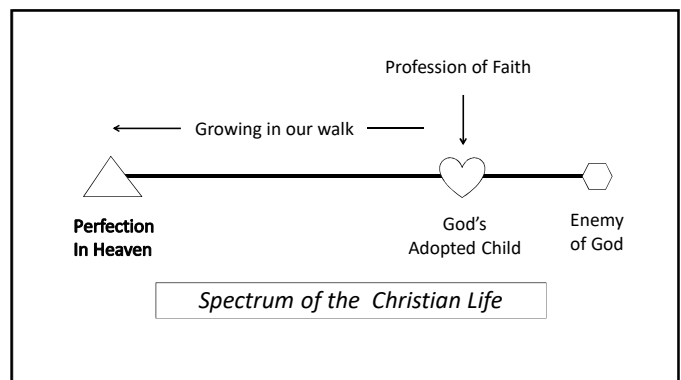
Ephesians 4:1-16 (NASB, 1977)

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

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by the craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



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- *God has called us (has nothing to do with what we do) and urges us to walk in humility and gentleness, with patience and forbearance toward one another.*
- *God wants us to exert all our effort to maintain the oneness in Christ that binds all believers.*

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- *The one Eternal God, our Creator and Father, reigns in sovereignty, works through us, and is present in us.*

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- *Jesus Christ, the exalted Lord, has provided gifts to the church, to be exercised by the body for the whole community.*
- *The goal is to attain unity of the faith and completeness in Christ.*
- *Christ is the One into whom all Christians grow and out of whom the church becomes unified.*

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- *Do you grasp the magnificent picture of unity in the church?*
- *Think about this passage! Do you realize that we are the church and this passage calls us to unity, to the glory of God?*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit: "How am I doing? What are You calling me to do? What are You calling me to change?"*