

# Church Unity

## Ephesians 4:1-16

### 1. Focus: Received Calling vs. 1-3

Paul exhorts God's people to fulfill their calling by guarding the unity of Spirit through living a life worthy of God's calling, which is marked by humility, gentleness, patience, tolerant love, and peacekeeping.

As God's people we are to fulfill our calling by guarding the unity of Spirit through living a life worthy of God's calling, which is marked by humility, gentleness, patience, tolerant love, and peacekeeping.

#### Question:

- a) Through the Holy Spirit, unity has already been established, and God's people are called to guard and maintain this unity of Spirit. In what ways can we guard or maintain the unity that God has given us?

### 2. Foundation: One Gospel vs. 4-6

Unity with one another needs to be preserved because our oneness is anchored in the gospel; one hope, one Holy Spirit, one Lord Jesus, one faith, one baptism, and one Father God.

#### Questions:

- b) How is Christian unity related to the nature of God?
- c) Under what circumstances would unity be wrong?

### 3. Function: Build Up Christ's Body vs. 7-16

Through God's grace, each of God's people have received God given gifts and are in fact gifts to the church for fulfilling the calling of unity through serving and empowering the church to become the mature body of Christ.

#### Questions:

- d) "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." Vs. 7..., "Gave gifts to His people" vs.8b... and "From 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. Vs. 16.

God has given gifts to His people so that each one of His people may be a gift to the church in contributing to the unity through building the church up in love. What would it look like for you to live out Christian community in the way Paul describes? What might change in your life?

**Conclusion:**

Why is Church Unity Important? It is our calling to guard the unity of the Spirit through living a life worthy of God's calling, rooted in the gospel and within God's nature, and our gifts given by God's grace are meant for the strengthening of unity through our serving and empowering the church to become the mature body of Christ.