

Ephesians 4.1-6

“Our Unity in Christ”

1. Fellowship of the Spirit

a. Humble

v. 2 “be completely humble”

Philippians 2.3-7 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

b. Gentle

v. 2 “Be completely...gentle”

Numbers 12.3 “Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.”

Matthew 11.29 “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

c. Patient

v. 2 “be patient”

Galatians 5.22 “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”

2 Timothy 4.2 “Preach the Word...with great patience and careful instruction.”

d. Forbearing

v. 2 “bearing with one another”

1 Timothy 1.16 “for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life”

e. Love

v. 2 “in love”

1 Peter 4.8 “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

f. Unity

v. 3 “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

2.14 “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility”

g. Purpose

v. 4 “called to one hope”

Romans 15.13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

2. Focused on the Son

a. Doctrine

v. 5 “one Lord, one faith”

1 Corinthians 8.6 “there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live”

Romans 10.9 “if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved”

b. Commitment

v. 5 “one baptism”

Romans 6.4 “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

3. Flowing from the Father

a. Relationships

v. 6 “one God and Father of all”

1.3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

1.17 “the glorious Father”

2.18 “For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

3.14,15 “For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.”

b. Goal

v. 6 “who is over all and through all and in all”

3.19 “that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”

Romans 11.36 “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”

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Ephesians 4.7-16

“Unity in Diversity”

1. The Giver of God’s Grace

a. Messiah

v. 8 “when he ascended on high”

Psalm 68.18 “When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts from men”

Acts 2.33 “Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”

2 Corinthians 1.20 “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.”

b. Savior

v. 9 “descended to the lower regions”

Philippians 2.8 “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!”

c. Lord

v. 10 “ascended higher than all the heavens”

Philippians 2.9-11 “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

2. The Gifts v. 11

a. Pioneering

1) Far: “apostles”

Acts 4.33 “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.”

Romans 1.5 “we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith”

2) Near: “evangelists”

Acts 21.8 “Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven”

2 Timothy 4.5 “But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

b. Proclaiming: “prophets”

1 Corinthians 12.28 “in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers”

1 Corinthians 14.29 “Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.”

c. Perfecting: “pastors and teachers”

1 Timothy 3.2 “Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach”

Titus 1.7,9 “an overseer is entrusted with God's work...He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it”

3. How the Gifts operate in the Church

a. Jesus: Head of the Church

v. 15 “him who is the Head, that is, Christ”

b. Believers: Priests and Servants of God

v. 7 “to each one of us grace has been given”

1 Peter 2.9 “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

Revelation 1.5,6 “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father”

c. Leaders: Equip Members for Service

v. 12 “to prepare God's people for works of service”

1 Peter 4.10,11 “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

Mark 10.45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

4. Goal of God’s Plan for the Church

v. 13 “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”

John 17.17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

John 17.20,21 “I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

a. Childish Christians

1) Not Stable v. 14 “infants, tossed back

2) Easily Deceived v. 14b “blown here and there

b. Christ-like Christians

1) Talk the Truth

v. 15 “speaking the truth in love”

4.21 “the truth that is in Jesus”

John 1.14 “Word...full of grace and truth”

2) Walk in Love

v. 15 “truthing in love”

1 Corinthians 13.1,2 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

1 Thessalonians 2.8 “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”