

# PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

## FOUNDATIONAL TEXT

*"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,"*

*Ephesians 4:1 NKJV*

*The Greek word – 'Spoudazo' means to keep the unity of the spirit*

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 4 tell us?
2. Interpretation – The word of God
3. Application - How do apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 4?
4. Key Messages from this preaching

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 4 tell us?

## KEY VERSE

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"*

*Ephesians 1:3 NKJV*

- Chapter 4 is where Paul takes the doctrine of **unity** spoken about in the first 3 chapters and shows us our duty and responsibility of living in unity as the body of Christ as Christians
- Right through the New Testament we are told that every believer has been given a gift. There are three lists of gifts in the New Testament and every believer according to how Christ apportions them, and how the grace has been given; a gift or gifts, and how those gift or gifts are to be used in the body of Christ
- All we have or can do is from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They are all involved in giving us every spiritual blessing and in ensuring we can walk worthy of the calling we have

## *Ephesians 4 – Overview*

Paul clearly lays out how we can walk worthy of the call upon our life. He starts by telling us about some things that are in the scripture, starting with **spiritual graces** needed for unity. Then he tells us about **grounds for unity** and why we can walk in in unity, then the **gifts** that are given to us to help us grow in unity, then the **growth of unity or the fruit of unity** in our lives.

Paul tells us how we can walk worthy of our calling and

1. **Graces** of Unity
2. **Grounds** of unity
3. **Gifts** for Unity
4. **Growth** in Unity

# PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

## 2. Interpretation – The word of God

Verses 1-3	Ephesians 4 NKJV
<p><i>"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."</i></p>	
Lowliness	Graces of Unity [1 of 6]
<p>Lowliness is basically humility. Humility is knowing who you are, it's about knowing yourself, but it's more than that; it's accepting yourself, accepting that you are who you are, the way God created you to be; <b>so it's about being yourself, but for His Glory.</b></p> <p>Humility gets tested when you see someone get what you yearned for or desired; humility get tested when you see someone getting opportunities you would love to have; humility gets tested when someone cuts in on you when you're driving and you're in a hurry to get to church. Humility gets tested when someone cuts you off when you're talking. It gets tested every day, as we are prompted by God to 'do' or say something, [or, which sometimes can be harder] to <b>NOT</b> do or say something as we are prompted by God.</p>	
Gentleness [or Meekness]	Graces of Unity [2 of 6]
<p>The world tells us that gentle or meek people are weak people, they don't have the strength or power or control to be a great leader or to be good at anything. In the Kingdom, that's not true, because in Numbers 12: 3 it says the following about Moses:</p> <p><i>"(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)"</i>  <b>Numbers 12:3 NKJV</b></p> <p>Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth yet he, a stuttering man with no confidence in himself, led the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land, not because of who he was, but because of <b>'whose'</b> he was.</p> <p>Matthew 11:29 tells us that Jesus says this of himself:</p> <p><i>"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."</i>  <b>Matthew 11:29 NKJV</b></p>	
Long Suffering [or Patience]	Graces of Unity [3 of 6]
<p>We think patience or long suffering is just gritting your teeth holding on and waiting for what you want and so we gripe, we whine we complain about the time going by, and the we think 'oh I stuck it out, I did it, so I must be patient'. That's not being patient, that's complaining, that's what the Israelites did for 40 years. They just complained, they weren't patient; they weren't patient getting to the promised land.</p> <p><b>Being patient is having the ability or the grace to endure discomfort without fighting back.</b></p>	
Bearing with one another in Love	Graces of Unity [4 of 6]
<p>Bearing with one another in love [or <b>forbearance</b> as some versions have it] cannot be done without love. We cannot see beyond our differences with each other without His love in us, then we are unable to bear with each other.</p>	

## PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

Endeavouring [or Effort]	Graces of Unity [5 of 6]
<p>Different versions say the following:  <i>'endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit'</i>  <i>'make every effort to keep the oneness of the spirit'</i>  <i>'being diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit'</i></p> <p>We are not called walk in unity with the world we are called to walk in unity with each other, and we have to work at that because we are imperfect human beings that are being transformed from one degree of glory to the next.</p> <p>Jesus said in Matthew 12:25</p> <p><b><i>"But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."</i></b>  <b>Matthew 12:25 NKJV</b></p>	
Bond of Peace	Graces of Unity [6 of 6]
<p>The peace of God must rule in our hearts in order to build unity</p> <p><b><i>"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."</i></b>  <b>Colossians 3:15 NKJV</b></p> <p><b><i>Peace comes when we humble ourselves and submit to God and His Ways</i></b></p>	
Verses 4-6	Ephesians 4 NKJV
<p><b><i>"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."</i></b>  <b>Ephesians 4:4-6 NKJV</b></p>	
One Body	Grounds of Unity [1 of 7]
<p>We're part of the body of Christ at the conversation. Many parts make up the one body. I might be the pointer finger in the whole body, so in this whole body of Christ, but that does not mean that I'm not part of the hand, I can be a pointer finger, but if that's all I am and I don't belong to the hand, I'm not going to do much, but when I'm part of the hand as well, guess what? I get to do hold the pen, I get to pick things up, I get to make a fist, if I need to, there's a whole bunch of things I can do when I'm part of the local hand that's in the ONE body. <b><i>We have one body, but we're local as well, so we need to be part of a local body as well as the whole body.</i></b></p>	
One Spirit	Grounds of Unity 2 of 7]
<p>The same Holy spirit in dwells in every believer and he is our counsellor, guiding us into all truth. He is what the father promised us. It is the holy spirit that seals us, guaranteeing we are part of God's family. So, how do we know that we can walk in unity? What can we base that on? <b><i>We're all part of one body, and we're all part of the one spirit, the same holy spirit that lives in me, lives in you; so, we're one part, that's how I know I can walk in unity with you all.</i></b></p>	

## PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

<i>One Hope of your Calling</i>	<i>Grounds of Unity [3 of 7]</i>
<p>This is the hope of our calling, or the hope of the return of the Lord. When we know we are part of His body, have His spirit and we know He will return, we will walk in peace and unity with each other, but it's not just knowing it. Here we have to know that we know that we know that we're part of the body, that the one Spirit dwells in us and that He is coming back. We have to know that we know that we know because if we don't know that, we've got nothing to stand on; but in knowing - I can walk in unity with all of you because we're all part of the one.</p>	
<i>One Lord</i>	<i>Grounds of Unity [4 of 7]</i>
<p>There is only one Lord for us as believers, and his name is Jesus. If we all serve and obey <b>JESUS</b>, how can we not all be in unity? Unity comes when we acknowledge the Lordship of Christ, so how do I know that we can all walk in unity? One body, <b>One spirit, One hope and One Lord</b>,</p>	
<i>One Faith</i>	<i>Grounds of Unity [5 of 7]</i>
<p>We have one faith and our faith is Jesus. We may differ in how we express that faith - some people may like their traditions that they build up, but if the faith is Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and no one goes to the father except through him; then we can all agree on that. We can all be unified in that and we can all walk together.</p>	
<i>One Baptism</i>	<i>Grounds of Unity [6 of 7]</i>
<p>The baptism that Paul is talking about here, is the baptism into the body of Christ, so, when I decided to make Jesus my Lord and saviour, I became immersed into the body of Christ and I become one with it. That the one baptism that he's talking about, he not talking about water baptism, because water baptism doesn't save you, <b>Holy spirit baptism doesn't save you, but immersion into the body of Christ does</b>, and that's what we can be unified on.</p>	
<i>One God</i>	<i>Grounds of Unity [7 of 7]</i>
<p>One God and father of 'our father in heaven', it's not <b>MY</b> father in heaven, it's <b>OUR</b> father in heaven. We have one God and one father of all of us. God is over all and working through and in us all. We are all loving and serving the same father. There should be no competition between us and no division. The same loving holy, just, righteous, generous, majestic, caring, forgiving, good father I serve and love, He's the same one you do. He does not have favourites, but treats us all equally; the same, so how can we walk in unity? How do we know we can do that? Because we have <b>one body, one spirit, one Lord, one father, one baptism, one God and father of all. They are biblical foundational truths that every single believer in Jesus should be able to unite over and in.</b></p>	
<i>Verses 7-11</i>	<i>Ephesians 4 NKJV</i>
<p><i>"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,"</i>  <i>Ephesians 4:7-11 NKJV</i></p>	

## PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

<b>Apostle</b>	<b>Gifts for Unity [1 of 5] – the thumb</b>
<p>Apostles are represented as ‘thumbs’ because they have the ability to touch every other area of the church life and the Apostle when invited in, speaks into those areas. They help lay doctrine, they help bring correction, they lay foundation, <i>but they’re invited in, they don’t just come in and throw their weight around.</i></p>	
<b>Prophet</b>	<b>Gifts for Unity [2 of 5] – the pointer finger</b>
<p>The prophet is the pointer finger. The pointer finger points, it warns, it says ‘oh look at that over there, or I see this happening’ so that’s what the prophet does. The prophet is here to help us learn how to <b>see</b> in God and learn how to read the <b>signs</b> of God. The office of the prophet is here, not to come in and say ‘I’m going to tell you what to do now, this is what God says for Lighthouse. He’s here to teach us to equip us so that we can go out and do the works of service.</p>	
<b>Evangelist</b>	<b>Gifts for Unity [3 of 5] – the middle finger</b>
<p>The Evangelist is represented by middle finger because it’s actually the one with the furthest reach, so it goes further than any other. It goes out into the world. The office of the Evangelist comes in and they help people be better at evangelising, because people will say ‘I don’t know how to do this’ and they teach and bring correction [whatever is needed].</p>	
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Gifts for Unity [4 of 5] – the ring finger</b>
<p>The Pastor is the ring finger, because they are married to the sheep. They care for the sheep, they’re always with them, they’re helping them, they’re loving, they’re sharing, they’re praying with them. They’re coming alongside them, and they are bringing some correction when needed.</p> <p>That’s what the pastor is represented, so we have people that can come in and help all the people out there that have pastoral gifts, be better at pastoring people.</p>	
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Gifts for Unity [5 of 5] – the little finger</b>
<p>The teacher [the little finger] brings a little bit of balance. People with a teaching gift [and it’s not just the people that stand up here], there are a lot of people in the congregation that have a teaching gift. These people are able to take biblical truths and explain them and show people how they apply it to their lives today. We bring people in with a teaching gift who are really good teachers and they help the teachers be better teachers, because teaching isn’t about standing up here and preaching or even leading a connect group, teaching is every day when you come along someone that is hurting and they go ‘I don’t understand what God’s word says about this’ and you’re saying ‘oh let me explain that to you’ and you can explain it in a way that enables that person to come through their hurt and grow in their love of God and also grow as a Christian.</p>	
<b>Verses 12-16</b>	<b>Growth in Unity</b>
<p><i>“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”</i></p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:12-16 NKJV</i></p>	

## PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

<i>Christlikeness</i>	<i>Growth in Unity [1 of 4]</i>
<p>We are becoming more like Christ in how we act, speak, think, etc. Are individual members becoming more like Christ? If we are, we are growing in unity</p>	
<i>Stability</i>	<i>Growth in Unity [2 of 4]</i>
<p>How is your faith? Are you stable in your faith or can you be rocked up and down, up and down [and I don't just mean a one-off like trauma]? Are you like this all the time or are you fairly stable? If we are growing in stability, we should also be not tossed about by every teaching that comes along, we're not out there chasing down the new thing. If we think that going out chasing everything is meant to be our Christian walk, maybe we need to just come back and be a bit more stable. Stability comes from knowing Him and His word, so that we can differentiate between sound and unsound doctrine. We don't need the pastors to tell us or the elders to tell us because <b>we</b> are in the word; we are tuning in; we are listening to what God is doing in this part of the body of Christ. We are getting our revelation, we are understanding who God is, what He's for etc. we understand all those things.</p>	
<i>Truth joined with Love</i>	<i>Growth in Unity [3 of 4]</i>
<p>In today's society we are told there are versions of truth, 'this is my truth', I want to speak 'my truth'. There is only <b>ONE</b> truth - Jesus. Jesus said he is the way, the truth, and the life. His words are truth, no one else's words are truth, and <b><i>when we are able to speak the truth, joined with love, then we are growing in unity and maturity.</i></b></p> <p>1 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that God's word is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness so that the person of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.</p> <p><b><i>"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."</i></b></p> <p><b><i>11 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV</i></b></p> <p>If I open this up this [bible] and quote scripture without love, I've just hit someone over the head. I may as well have got a baseball bat and given them a knock, because that's how much good it's going to do, but when I take that truth and I wrap it in the love of God, then that truth will correct, will rebuke, will edify, will rise up, it will do those things.</p>	
<i>Cooperation</i>	<i>Growth in Unity [4 of 4]</i>
<p>Working together, understanding that being members of Christ's body both locally and globally, what we do and don't do and say and don't say, actually affects the whole body. We need each other in order to fulfil our purpose in God. We all have a ministry to other believers. You have been gifted to use a ministry for other believers. Don't rob us of that gift.</p> <p>The eldership of this church wants you to live and operate in that gift. Don't hold back. Just as our bodies grow as each individual part grows, so too with the body of Christ, as each individual part grows, the body grows and unites, <b><i>but love is the key to walking and living in unity; to live a life worthy of our calling.</i></b> We have to love each other, like Christ loves us. Doing this is the key to walking in unity</p>	

# PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

## 3. Application - How do we apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 4?

What is God saying to you out of the book of Ephesians Chapter 4 on Unity & Purity

ACTION: Read:

- **Ephesians 4:17-19 - Admonition** [don't walk as the unsaved walk]
- **Ephesians 4:20-25 – Argument** [through personal relationship with Christ]
- **Ephesians 4:25-32 - Application** [stop lying, stealing, etc. Instead put on the new self and live as Christ]

ACTION: Applying the six Graces of Unity

- **Walking in Humility**
  - Don't fall into false humility and just think you are scum or think lowly of yourself. Be secure in who you are In Him and what you are called to do in Him.
- **Walking in Gentleness or Meekness**
  - Being gentle or meek is allow yourself to control that emotion, to control the power, allowing ourselves to grow in the grace of gentleness so that when faced with difficult situations, we don't have a knee-jerk reaction, but we respond in a way that keeps the unity in the body of Christ.
- **Walking in Patience or Long Suffering**
  - Being patient is having the ability or the grace to endure discomfort without fighting back and without complaining
- **Bearing with one another in Love**
  - Grow in the grace of bearing with one another in love, but not the love of the world, in the love of Christ, having His love dwell in us and change us from the inside out.
- **Walking in Endeavour or Effort**
  - Be zealous or eager [or have diligence] to keep the unity of the spirit
  - The enemy will try every trick he has to try and get us to not work at being in unity with each other. He will use our insecurities, he will use our hurts, our confidence, our pride, our past experiences, our disappointments, our family, our friends, our pastors, our deacons, our mothers, our fathers, our bosses etc.
- **Walking in Peace**
  - Read James 3-4. It describes that happens to us if we are not peacemakers and if we are, James tell us how to live our lives as peacemakers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

4. Overarching Messages from this preaching	
The Book of Ephesians is like the bible in a nutshell	Whenever I feel on shaky ground, I go straight to Ephesians, because Ephesians 1, 2 & 3 set up the whole doctrine of Christianity, Ephesians 4, 5 & 6 tell you how to live it out
We are not of this world; we don't belong here	Paul is saying that walking worthy of the call means walking in unity and harmony with <i>each other</i> – not the world
Unity is not uniformity	Collins definition of <i>uniformity</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A state or condition in which everything is regular, homogeneous, or unvarying</li> <li>▪ Lack or diversity or variation, especially to the point of boredom or monotony; sameness</li> </ul>
Unity is:	Collins definition of <i>unity</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The state or quality of being one. ONENESS</li> <li>▪ THE ACT, state or quality of forming a whole from separate parts</li> <li>▪ Something whole or complete that is composed of separate parts</li> <li>▪ The state of being joined together or in agreement</li> </ul>
Let God's peace rule in your heart	Warren Wiersbe [book] says 'if a believer cannot get along with God, he cannot get along with other believers
This needs to be our hearts cry in the body of Christ that 'united we stand, divided we fall'	A song called "united we stand' by the Brotherhood of Man  'if the world around you falls apart my love, then I'll still be there and if the going gets too hard along the way, just you call, I'll hear for united we stand, divided we fall and if our backs should ever be against the wall, we'll be together, together you and I
Jesus was meek and gentle but demonstrated great power during his time on earth	Gentleness or meekness is not powerlessness, it is knowing power, but having it under control, not the power controlling you.
Our Gifts are not something you just go and put on a shelf somewhere and might open later	They're something that are to be used in the body of Christ. What Christ has also done is he has actually given gifted positions or people or functions that are needed to help us. Every single believer grows in our gifts that we've been given so this is what he's talking about here.  Paul says that Christ has given us these anointed, gifted people or positions in the body of Christ and the idea is that the five-fold ministry as we call it, helps us grow our gifts so that we can then serve the body.



## PART 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-32 UNITY & PURITY

<p>We have apostolic oversight that is invited into help us with doctrine, with foundational stuff.</p>	<p>The elders of this church will not allow just anyone walking in that back door saying, 'hi I'm apostle blah blah, and I'm here to correct your doctrine'. There's no way they will listen to them, they speak into the evangelist, the pastors, they speak into all areas of church life. They help the elders set the riverbanks as we call it, so that we can flow correctly</p>
<p>It's not just the 'oldest' that are called to pastor.</p>	<p>There are people out there that have pastoral hearts that have pastoral gifting that could even be better than the elders at pastoring. When we invite someone in that has that gift, they help us be better at pastoring, so that the body of Christ functions correctly</p>
<p>Truth without love is brutality, but love without truth is hypocrisy</p>	<p>Don't just love people and not help them. Understand God's word so that the truth can come in and change them from the inside out</p>
<p>If we don't protect, strive and promote unity, we are leaving ourselves [and the church] open for attack</p>	<p>Remember, the enemy only wants to bring destruction, disruption, and divisiveness</p>
<p>God has not called us to division, but to fellowship with Him and His body</p>	<p>This is the most powerful weapon we have to witness to the world around us.</p>