



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
Jesus changes lives

EPHESIANS: PART #2 THE CHURCH



Ephesians #10 – A Church that is Unified by Christ (4:1-6)

“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 4:2-3

NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Apologetics and the Church**
 - Date: Friday 8th of Nov, 10am-3:30pm.
 - Location: Life Centre Church, Level 3, 1642 Anzac Ave, Northlakes 4509.
 - Register & Info: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/acts-29-brisbane-event-tickets-76179475863?fbclid=IwAR0tmkcrJnVLSd3XGW8MPfYV1u60mOF-YbppA4D54DOJ3gYOR8CJHh-RUKU>
- **Alpha Course! Thursday nights – Be praying for us**
 - **Pray** – God’s Spirit to draw people and open up their hearts.



EPHESIANS #10 – A CHURCH THAT IS UNIFIED BY CHRIST (4:1-6)

REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

Ephesians 4:1-6

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real-life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **WARM UP:** *Discuss what the "kingdom of self" is?*
3. **UNITED IN CALLING:** *Read verse 1*
 - a. What is the importance of the "therefore"?
 - b. How does the word "worthy" describe how our walking should be in relation to our calling?
 - c. What is our calling?
 - i. *That we would be united together as a Church that reveals to the world the reconciling work of Christ between Man and God.*
 - ii. *(some ideas we've covered) Chosen (1:4), predestined (1:5), adopted (1:5), atoned (1:7), sealed (1:13), made alive (2:5), promised eternity of increasing knowledge of kindness (2:7), unity (2:14), a mission to display God's wisdom (3:10)*
4. **UNITED IN CONDUCT:** *Read verses 2-3.*
 - a. What is the aim of our 'walking worthy of our calling'?
 - i. *That we eagerly maintaining unity of the Spirit*



- b. What are the virtues we are told to walk in?
 - i. *Humility: serving others' needs or best interests before your own*
 - ii. *Gentleness: being mild-spirited or self-controlled with others. Kindness rather than roughness.*
 - iii. *Patience: going through long suffering with the faults of others. Mixture of humility and love.*
 - iv. *Bearing with one another in love: How we put up with one another in/because of love (1 Peter 4:8 – love covers a multitude of sins).*
 - c. What are the opposites to these virtues?
 - i. *Self-centredness; harshness; godless expectation and self-centredness; idealistic expectation; indifference to the Aim of unity.*
 - d. *How are you doing at eagerly seeking to maintain unity?*
5. **UNITED IN TRUTH:** Read verses 4-6.
- a. Think through together how it is that each of the 'one' truths are a foundation of unity for all believers.
 - b. *Are there people in Church you struggle to desire to maintain unity with? Why does the mini-creed in v4-6 unite us? Suggest getting tea/coffee and read the Bible together with those who you find unity a challenge, and grow in unity by the Word.*

PRAY

Pray for one another as we seek to walk in a manner worthy of our calling to which we have been called.

Spend some time in prayer giving thanks to God for the unity we share together in Christ, and that Unity in our fellowship would continually strengthen as we seek to be united with one another despite the various differences we could have – for we are made one in Christ by our calling, conduct and God's truth!

NOTES

Eph. 4:1–16 Unity of the Body of Christ. Paul now turns to exhortation (with three subsections in vv. 1–6, 7–10, and 11–16) based upon the truths he has been teaching—a common format for his letters, in which doctrinal truths are stated first (here, chs. 1–3), then application to life is built on that doctrine (chs. 4–6). The exhortations of Scripture become empty moralism without this gospel foundation.

Eph. 4:1–6 Exhortation to Unity. Paul exhorts the church to unity based on the truths of the one God and his one work of salvation.

Eph. 4:1 prisoner. Paul's imprisonment for the sake of the gospel is for the Lord (see 3:1). His exhortations have great power, since he himself has taken these matters seriously enough to suffer confinement in the Lord's service. Christians are to live in a manner worthy of the adoption, holiness, and unity to which they were called (see 1:4–5; 4:4).



Eph. 4:2 Humility was regarded as distasteful by the pagan world of Paul’s day. Pride was more highly prized. All of the virtues mentioned—humility, gentleness, patience, and most of all, love—were displayed in Christ’s own character and are to be evident in the daily walk of every Christian.

Eph. 4:3 Peace is a state of reconciliation and love and therefore acts as a bond to unite believers in Christ. Believers do not create unity but are to preserve the unity already established.

Eph. 4:4 Spirit. Just as a human body has one spirit that animates it, so Christ’s body, the church, is enlivened by one Holy Spirit who enlivens Christians to eternal life. one hope. Christians do not have separate “hopes” but are together called to eternal life and to enjoy God forever in resurrection glory. They are also called to express that unity this side of eternity. On the church as a body, see Rom. 12:4–8; 1 Cor. 12:12–31.

Eph. 4:5 One Lord refers to Jesus Christ. One faith refers to the doctrinal truths Christians commonly confess. “One Spirit” (v. 4), “one Lord [Christ]” (v. 5), and “one God and Father” (v. 6) constitute a Trinitarian formula. one baptism. Christians have disagreed about the proper mode of baptism beginning in the early history of the church. “One baptism” here, however, may refer to the baptism of all believers into one body (as described in 1 Cor. 12:13), which is the result of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit when one becomes a genuine believer in Christ. If this view is correct, water baptism would be an outward sign of the inward reality of the believer being in Christ as the result of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. There is therefore a profound spiritual unity of all genuine believers who are “in Christ” (see John 17:21, 23), founded on “one faith” in “one Lord,” irrespective of denominational differences. Others hold that the reference here is to water baptism, but would disagree concerning the proper mode.

REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible.