

## Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 4:1-16 Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

### I. Unity (1-6)

#### Qualities needed for unity...Part of Peace

- **Humility**  
Put others ahead of ourselves  
-Phil 2:1-11  
-Rom 12:3
- **Gentleness**  
Not demanding  
-Matt 5:5  
-Phil 4:5
- **Patience**  
Reluctance to avenge wrongs  
-Rom 12:17-19
- **Forbearance**  
Bear each others failings  
-Gal 6:1-5



Beginning of Paul's "practical" section. How to apply the doctrine of chapters 1-3 in daily life. Compare to Rom 12:1; 1Th 4:1

Eph 3:1,

<sup>1</sup>I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, << As explained in chapters 1 to 3

<sup>2</sup>with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, bearing with one another in love, Eph 2:13-18

<sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.

<sup>4</sup>There is <sup>[1]</sup>one body and <sup>[2]</sup>one Spirit—just as you were called to the <sup>[3]</sup>one hope that belongs to your call—

<sup>5</sup><sup>[4]</sup>one Lord, <sup>[5]</sup>one faith, <sup>[6]</sup>one baptism,

<sup>6</sup><sup>[7]</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup>But **grace was given to each one of us** according to the measure of Christ's gift.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore it says, "When he **ascended** on high he led a host of captives, and he **gave gifts to men.**" << Ps 68:18

<sup>9</sup>(In saying, "He **ascended**," what does it mean but that he had also **descended** into the lower regions, the earth?

<sup>10</sup>He who **descended** is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

<sup>11</sup>And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds and teachers**,

<sup>12</sup>to **equip the saints** for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

<sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the **unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to **mature manhood**, to the measure of the **stature of the fullness of Christ**, << Eph 3:19

<sup>14</sup>so that we may **no longer be children**, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

<sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, **into Christ**,

<sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

#### That which unifies...One:

-1 Cor 12:12-13

1. **Body**  
The spiritual Body of Christ (Church)  
-Eph 2:16; 5:23
2. **Spirit**  
Indwelling all Christians  
-Eph 1:11-14
3. **Hope**  
Promised eternal life with Christ  
-Rom 5:2-5
4. **Lord**  
Master who deserves our allegiance
5. **Faith**  
Commitment to Christ (Salvation)  
-Rom 3:21-26
6. **Baptism**  
Immersion / Burial with Christ  
-Acts 2:38  
-Rom 6:1-4
7. **God and Father**  
Creator of all / Author of salvation

Why does Paul modify the wording of this passage from Psalm 68?

#### His Goal for Believers:

Why were these gifts given to certain individuals?

- **Equipped (12)**
- **Unified in Faith (13)**
- **Unified in Knowledge (13)**
- **Mature (13)**
- **Stable (14-16)**

1Co 13:11  
James 1:6

### II. Unifier (7-16)

#### His Gifts to Believers:

##### Apostles

Full representatives of Christ...Included the 12 (w Matthias Acts 1:15-26) as well as Paul

##### Prophets

Those with the gift of prophecy...spoke the word of Christ... Acts 13:1; 1 Cor 12:28; Eph 2:20; 3:5; 4:11

##### Evangelists

Those who take the word of Christ into places or hearts where it has not yet been proclaimed... Acts 21:8; 2Ti 4:5

##### Shepherds & Teachers

Local church leaders. Two roles regarded as complementary and often found in the same person...1Ti 3:1-13; Tit 1:5-9

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**Practical Section**

**Romans 12:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

**Prisoner for the Lord**

**Ephesians 3:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

**Humility**

**Philippians 2:1–11 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Romans 12:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

**Gentleness (Meekness)**

**Matthew 5:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> **“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

**Philippians 4:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

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**Patience**

**Romans 12:17–19 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

**Forbearance**

**Galatians 6:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup> But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup> For each will have to bear his own load.

**Unity of the Spirit**

**Ephesians 2:13–18 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**One...**

**1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**One Body**

**Ephesians 2:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

**Ephesians 5:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

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**One Spirit**

**Ephesians 1:11–14 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**One Hope**

**Romans 5:2–5 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**One Faith**

**Romans 3:21–26 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**One Baptism**

**Acts 2:38 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 6:1–4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

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**Ascended on High**

**Psalm 68:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> You ascended on high,  
leading a host of captives in your train  
and receiving gifts among men,  
even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.

**Apostles**

**Acts 1:15–26 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup> “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup> And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup> “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “ ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “ ‘Let another take his office.’ <sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup> And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**Prophets**

**Acts 13:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

**Ephesians 2:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

**Ephesians 3:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

**Ephesians 4:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

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**Evangelists**

**Acts 21:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

**2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

**Shepherds and Teachers**

**1 Timothy 3:1–13 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup> for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. <sup>8</sup> Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup> They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. <sup>11</sup> Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup> Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. <sup>13</sup> For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

**Titus 1:5–9 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— <sup>6</sup> if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. <sup>7</sup> For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. <sup>9</sup> He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

**Fullness of Christ**

**Ephesians 3:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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**Children / Tossed**

**1 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

**James 1:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.