

Ephesians Chapter 4

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Ephesians 3:21 Unto him [*be*] glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Paul was a prisoner because he was a servant. These are the practical duties which are now urged upon all brethren. They come because of our glorious privileges that we have in Christ Jesus. They had been called to a glorious calling as he had shown them in chapter three. Christians have been called with the highest calling to which man has ever been honored.

Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, Fore bearing one another in love;

We are to walk or live with all humility and gentleness of spirit. These are the characteristics of walking worthy. To be easily offended, to take umbrage or offense from our brothers and seek to get even or pay a brother back for any injuries is opposite of these qualities. If the heart is filled with love the other qualities will be shown forth cf:

I Cor. 13:1ff

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Regarding unity, Jesus prayed that all of His children be one cf:

John 17:20-21. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Paul beseeched us to have no divisions cf:

I Corinthians 1:10-13 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same

judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Forbearance and long suffering are essential to unity and peace. There must be unity of those that have the same Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

The unity commanded has a basis in seven unities which existed in the church and should exist in all ages. There was then one body, the Church of Christ, the body of Christ, not a Gentile body and a Jewish body. Modern denominations were unknown. cf:

Romans 12:5, So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

I Corinthians 12:12-13, For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:16, And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Colossians 1:18, And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence

This verse states plainly there is one body, the Church. What does the word body in the Bible mean? It means Church. Prove it again Preacher: OK

\Ephesians 1:22-23 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all

What does this verse teach? ... the Church, which is His Body ... The Greek definite article – the – before Church also means one.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

There is one body, or Church what in the world is there that you don't understand about one? Here is where all the disagreement begins. Baptist preachers believe there is one Church. Catholic priests believe there is but one Church. They just can't point to:

Romans 16:16 and show us: Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

One Spirit – the same spirit is bestowed upon Jew & Gentile and upon all saints. Wherever called and in whatever state, all are filled with one hope or expectation: that of immortality and everlasting life.

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism

One Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Head of The Church cf:

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [*things*] he might have the preeminence.

I Corinthians 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

One faith, which is often called the Faith, meaning the Gospel or pure New Testament Christianity.

One baptism, for all have been baptized into The Lord upon the profession of the one faith. It is utterly inconsistent with the apostle's argument if there are three ways to administer baptism such as, sprinkling, pouring and immersion. The word baptism comes from the Greek word baptizo. In 1611, King James insisted that the translators stick with the Ecclesiastical words (Catholic) such as Bishops and baptism. Baptism is actually the trans-anglicized Greek word baptizo that the translators faced a choice in translating. One, they could tell the truth and translate the word, dip, immerse, or plunge underwater, and make all the Catholics and some of the Protestants mad. Two, they could lie and translate the word, sprinkle, and make all true reformers mad. What they chose to do was a third option, do nothing and make up a brand-new English word, baptism. Several times baptizo is used in the Greek New Testament when it is not referring to the

act of baptizing a person, and, it is interesting to note how the translators always tell the truth and translate the word dip, or dippeth cf:

Matthew 26:23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me

Acts 8:36-39 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Note that they BOTH went down into the water. You do not need to do that to sprinkle or pour someone.

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

We have been taught throughout the bible the fact that there is but one God, and still today, the Jews pray the Shema three times a day cf:

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [*is*] one LORD:

We have learned that The Church

- 1. has Unity of the Head**
- 2. Unity of the Spirit dwelling in the church (the saints)**
- 3. Unity of Hope (expectation)**
- 4. Unity of the Faith**
- 5. Unity of the ordinance of baptism for admission into the Church**
- 6. Unity of the Father**
- 7. Unity of organization of the One Body, the Church of Christ.**

Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

There are special offices and special gifts that Christ deals to each.

Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

This verse quotes:

Psalms 68:18 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

Paul applies this verse to Christ's ascension to Heaven. The captives are sin, the curse of The Law, and death. Gifts are given just as a conquering King returning in triumph distributed gifts ... Christ gave gifts at His Ascension.

Ephesians 4:9 Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

This verse applies to Christ. If He ascended, it shows He descended from Heaven before His ascension to Heaven. This must necessarily follow if the one ascending is Divine and has a home in Heaven as the Psalm Paul is quoting indicates.

Ephesians 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

He descended to the very deepest abasement taking on human form and becoming a Servant. He overcame sin and death in His own death, burial and now He is raised. Now He is exalted to the right hand of God. God's throne is represented as above the Heavens as God is above all cf:

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. Hebrews 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Christ gave gifts to men v: 7-8. Of these gifts were various offices. In the matter of the offices that continue in existence today, it is the duty of the church to recognize and call out the men who meet the exact conditions and qualifications Christ has given for those offices. Apostles were all chosen by Christ and had to be an eye-witness of His resurrection cf:

Acts 1:21-22 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection

Apostles therefore could have no successors. They still remain as teachers today by the authority of their New Testament writings.

Some prophets: an inspired office, essential in the church for teaching until the New Testament was completed. Some such as Luke and Jude wrote books of the New Testament.

Some evangelists such as Phillip Acts 8:4ff & 21:8, Timothy and Titus. This office is to preach the gospel and is necessary as long as the church remains on earth cf:

II Timothy 4:1-2 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

This office of evangelist does not require supernatural gifts to preach the Gospel. The descriptions of their work and duties are found in I & II Timothy and Titus. Every evangelist or minister who is not a personal soul winner should be immediately replaced or retrained. Evangelists or ministers who do not personally bear fruit is taking up the pulpit space, salary and living quarters that a soul winner could be filling.

Pastors and Teachers also known as shepherds, bishops, elders, presbyters and overseers. They are described as: “especially those who labored in the word and doctrine”.

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Helping saints to higher and holier lives for carrying out the work of the ministry. Always intended to minister to the up building of the church within and without ... perfect is complete or full grown spiritually.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Unity is one of the great objects to be attained through these offices. Not only unity of the faith, but also notice in the verse - unity of knowledge of the Son of God. Full unity will be found only when all alike know Christ. A full grown man is a noble manhood, fully developed, being Christ-like.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Children are feeble, inexperienced, and easily deceived. It is doctrine that has broken up unity by the tricks of men, craftily and cunningly employed by teachers of false doctrine that Paul warned the Ephesian elders against in cf:

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Truth is never to give place to false doctrine but is to be spoken only in love. Boldly tempered with meekness.

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Every member of the body deriving life from the head, which is Christ, is to work in his place harmoniously for the increase of the body.

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Paul returns to his exhortation found in verses 1-3. Having come out from the heathen, and abandoned all their sins they are to live Christ-like.

Ephesians 4:18 Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

The Gentiles walked or lived in darkness of life. Vanity is a life in darkness, unenlightened by the gospel of Christ. The idea is willful blindness.

Ephesians 4:19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Having trampled conscience underfoot until it is calloused, and having silenced its admonitions, they gave themselves over to lasciviousness - Greek – as-ELG-i-a filthy wantonness and evil. Purity of life was not even considered a virtue among the Gentiles.

Ephesians 4:20 But ye have not so learned Christ; You are Gentiles like those described, but you have learned Christ.

Ephesians 4:21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

You have heard and been taught the truth in Christ.

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

The old man, which is the sinful life, is contrasted to the new man in Christ.

Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

By having a new mind and spirit cf:

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

He who has a new mind within him is born again of water and spirit and is newly created in righteousness. Cf:

John 3:3-5 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Since ye have been taught of Christ, put away falsehood and speak the truth. All are members of one Christian household or family.

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

This is a quote of Psalms 4:4 in the Septuagint version. Do not sin through anger. If circumstances of anger arise, do not be led astray.

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

By cherishing anger, a person under a fit of anger, is ready to be tempted to evil deeds.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

All sorts of sinners have been converted to Christ. Honest labor is the best antidote to a dishonest life.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

All cursing, anything that is rotten in your speech, anything that will demoralize others, or is obscene or immoral in your language is forbidden.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Such sins grieve the spirit. If we grieve Him away, we will not be sealed on the day of redemption. List of negative things to put away:

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

These verses enforce duties essential to keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. These are every day duties of life: verse 31 being negative & verse 32 being positive.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, Tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy

Matthew 5:43-46 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Sources: KJV Bible, theWord.com, B.W. Johnson, Clarke's and Coffman's Commentaries.