

Episode #3-04 Ephesians 4 Part 1 - The Unity of the Spirit

I. The purpose of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians is to tell us what God's present purpose is in all His work today. This includes His work in the world and in the individual believer. Ephesians is the book of God's present purpose, the book of being "in Christ," and the book of God's grace.

II. In Ephesians 1-3, the Holy Spirit revealed to us all the glorious things that are true of us "in Christ." Now, in Ephesians 4-6, we are told of the "worthy walk" that we should live in love and gratitude to God for the glorious position we have received.

III. Ephesians 4 introduces the concept of the "worthy walk."

A. Verse 1. "Therefore" is in light of all the great truth of what we are in Christ.

1. We are admonished by Paul, the bound one in the Lord. Note: not bound by Rome, but by the Lord. He had to stay, because the Lord wanted him there!
2. To "walk worthy" indicates that we should order our behavior a certain way. This is because of the position we have been placed in. We should live in accordance with what God has done for us "in Christ."

B. Verse 2. The position we have results in a different attitude.

1. Religion leads to pride, being "in Christ" leads to humility.
2. Being "in Christ" leads to patience with our fellow sinners.
3. Being "in Christ" leads to bearing with one another in love. This is the Greek agape, the self-sacrificing love of God.

IV. Ephesians 4:3-6. The Unity of the Spirit.

A. Verse 3. We are to work hard at safeguarding the unity of the Spirit. This is the unity we have today. The unity of the Spirit is something we guard, not something we create. It is peace, our true union with God, that is our uniting bond.

B. Verses 4-6. The unity of the Spirit consists of seven great truths.

V. Verse 4. Unity #1: One body.

A. Body = Greek *soma* (like English "somatic cell"). What is "body"? We speak of a "body of water." In the winter, you want clothes with more "body." The "body" of paint is thick or thin.

B. Scriptural clue: Colossians 2:17. What a word means can be defined by its opposite. Here, the opposite of "body" is "shadow." The opposite of shadow is the substance of a thing. A body, therefore, is the actual, organized substance of a thing.

C. This is the substance of Christ, of which we partake.

VI. Conclusion: The last three chapters of Ephesians tell us how we should live in light of the glorious truths of the first three chapters. The first way to live is by guarding the unity of the Spirit. The unity the Spirit gives today comes from believing the truth. This is something we keep, not create, and it doesn't matter if others join us or not. First is the one body, the same reality of Christ of which we all partake. Let us all strive to walk worthy, and keep the unity of the Spirit!