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EPHESIANS 4

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WORDS OF
KNOWLEDGE

WORDS OF
WISDOM

2 Main Divisions of Ephesians 4

1. 4:1-16—A Worthy Walk within the Church
2. 4:17-32—A Worthy Walk outside the Church
(The New Life)

Ephesians 4:1-16 Overview

- 4:1-6—Maintain the unity of the Spirit.
- 4:7-16—Minister the diversity of Christ's gifts within that unity.

Ephesians 3:20-21

- Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
- to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Theme of Ephesians

What God is doing

in the Church

through Christ

for His own glory

forever

Ephesians 4:1 “Therefore”

We now need to live a life that reflects our position of blessing in Christ. Remember that we have been chosen “before the foundation of the world” (1:4) and adopted as His children (1:5) “to the praise of the glory of His grace” (1:6). He has redeemed and forgiven us (1:7) and lavished His grace on us (1:7-8). In short, God the Father “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (1:3).

Ephesians 4:1 “Therefore”

- Chapter 2 taught us that God saved us by grace through faith and not by works (2:8-9) but with the goal that after salvation we would do the good works He had planned for us (2:10).
- That chapter went on to emphasize the unity of Jews and Gentiles in Christ.

Ephesians 2:13-14

- But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off [Gentiles] have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups [Jews and Gentiles] into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.

Ephesians 4:1 “Therefore”

- Chapter 3 reveals a mystery (a previously hidden truth, now made known): “that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (3:6).
- The Gentiles are not second-class citizens in Christ.

How We Are to Walk (Live)

- Walk worthy of the calling you have received (4:1).
- Walk in love (5:2).
- Walk as children of light (5:8).
- Walk carefully and wisely (5:15).

The Unity of the Spirit

- It already exists, for Christ has broken down the wall that formerly divided Jews & Gentiles (2:14).
- We are to keep the unity (4:3).
- One Body—the Church (Jesus is the Head.)
(Romans 12:5; Eph. 5:23)
- One Spirit—The Holy Spirit who comes to live in us at salvation (Romans 8:9)

The Unity of the Spirit

- One Hope—A confident expectation that Jesus will keep His Word (Hebrews 6:19)
- One Lord—Jesus (Romans 10:9, 13)
- One Faith—The Faith, the body of core truths common to all believers (Jude 1:3; Philippians 1:27)
- One Baptism—The Holy Spirit's work at salvation (1 Cor. 12:13)

The Unity of the Spirit

- One God and Father—He is above all, through all, and in all. The church exists to glorify Him (Ephesians 4:6; 3:21).
- 4:1-6—Maintain the unity of the Spirit.
- 4:7-16—Minister the diversity of Christ's gifts within that unity.

Diversity within Unity

- 4:7-10—The Head, Christ Himself
- 4:11—The Voices—communicators of truth who are gifts to the church
- 4:12-16—The Body—saints who serve with their Christ-given gifts

Spiritual Gifts

- Every believer has received one or more gifts. Christ even determines the extent or measure of that gift (Ephesians 4:7).
- A spiritual gift is a believer's ministry ability through which the Spirit of God manifests Himself in ministering the grace of God to edify (build up) the body (the church) and ultimately to glorify God (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11, Mark Minnick).

Ephesians 4:13

- Christ is looking for an appropriate body, not a child or a teen, but a mature adult—someone with a worthy walk.
- We must grow in the unity of the faith of the Son of God—that is, profound agreement about THE faith, the whole body of revealed truth.
- We must grow in the unity of the knowledge of the Son of God—the most critical, central part of THE faith, includes our subjective experiential knowledge of Christ.

Description of the Maturing Process (4.14-16)

- 4:14—to grow out of childhood—to gain discernment
- 4:15—to mature to be an appropriate body for our Head, Christ
- 4:16—to grow into a mutually edifying and loving body

Ephesians 4:16

- With the gifts He has given us, God designed us to fit together in the church like puzzle pieces.
- The design also holds the parts together, establishes a bond.
- When all the parts work as God made them, the body is alive and growing.



Ephesians 4:16

- We contribute to the growth of other believers and to the church as a whole.
- We exercise our spiritual gifts in love—to help others and glorify God.





Reminders

- If you are a believer, you have one or more spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 12:7 & 11).
- Beware of comparing yourself to others (1 Corinthians 12:14-18).
- You need to be yourself. Use your gift for the glory of God and the building up of other believers!
- Gifts are God's choice (no room for pride).