

Unity in the Body of Christ - Ephesians 4:1-16

Topics:

Body, Church, Faith, Gentleness, Gifts, God, Grace, Holy Spirit, Hope, Humility, Jesus Christ, Love, Pastors, Patience, Peace, Serving, Teaching, Unity, Work

Open It Questions

1. What one quality would you like to develop in your character?

2. What keeps sports teams unified?

3. What do you consider yourself good at doing?

4. What skill or talent would you like to master?

Explore It Questions

5. What did Paul urge the Ephesians to do? (4:1)

6. What three virtues foster unity among Christians? (4:2)

7. How should Christians conduct themselves toward each other? Why? (4:2-6)

8. What are the seven elements of Christian unity? (4:4-6)

9. How is Christian unity related to the nature of God? (4:4-6)

10. How are we enabled to live at peace with each other? (4:7)

11. Who gives grace to each believer? (4:7)

12. How did Paul confirm God's giving of gifts? (4:8)

13. What commentary did Paul make on the Old Testament passage he quoted? Why? (4:9-11)

14. With what kind of people does God fill the church? (4:11)

15. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? (4:12-13)

16. What results from gifted believers equipping the church?
(4:14-16)

Get It Questions

17. Why did Paul stress the theme of Christian unity to the Ephesians?

18. How do you get along with other Christians?

19. What is God’s prescription for unity among believers?

20. How does the Spirit help you maintain the "bond of peace" with others in your church?

21. How have you benefited from the Christian leadership in your church?

22. What is your responsibility to help others in the body of Christ?

23. How unified is your church?

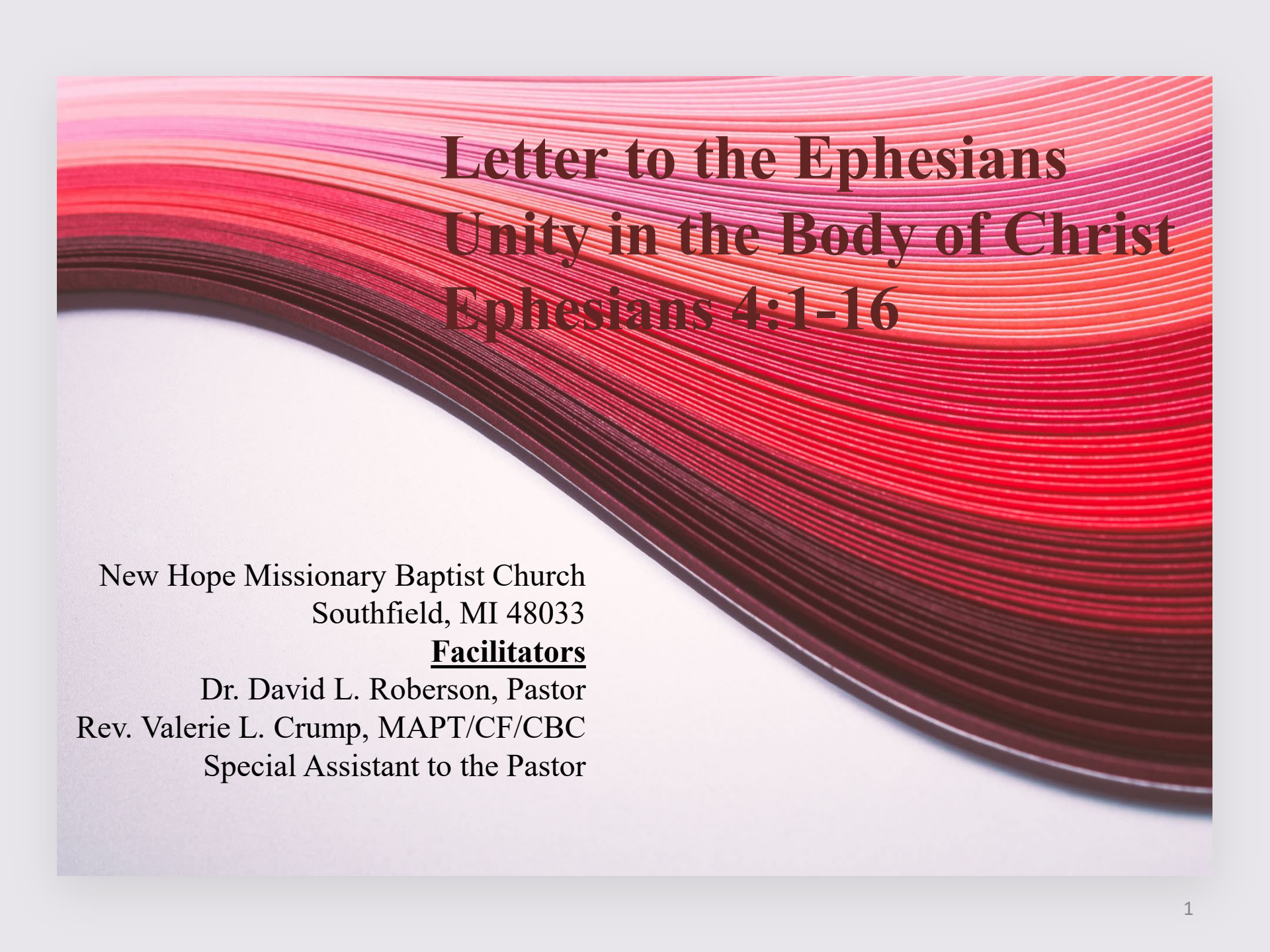
Apply It Questions

24. How do you need to show humility, gentleness, and patience in dealing with a difficult relationship this week?

25. What service can you offer another church member to help build up the body of Christ?

26. To whom do you need to speak the truth lovingly this week?

Adult Questions for LESSON Maker.



Letter to the Ephesians

Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

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Southfield, MI 48033

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Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-
16

Topics

- Body
- Church
- Faith
- Gentleness
- Gifts
- God
- Holy Spirit
- Hope
- Jesus Christ
- Love
- Pastors
- Patience
- Peace
- Serving
- Teaching
- Unity
- Work

Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Open It Questions⁴



Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Open It Questions

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Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Open It Questions

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Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Open It Questions

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Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Open It Questions

4. What skill or talent would you like to master?

Unity in the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading:
Ephesians 4:1-16

Unity in the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4:1-3

¹I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Unity in the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4:4-6

⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*

⁵ *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*

⁶ *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Unity in the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4:7-10

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

⁸ Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Unity in the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Unity in the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4:14-16

¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Introduction

Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Introduction

In this fourth chapter of Ephesians, the focus changes from **theological** to **practical**. Paul has explained to his readers God's great mystery and plan for his church, and he has prayed an **awe-inspiring prayer** that they might know all of Christ's love and all of his blessings.

Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Introduction

The remainder of the letter contains Paul's plea to live out the **grace** and **unity** the believers had **received through Christ.**

Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Introduction

Verses 1-6 are on **unity**;
verses 7-16 are on **diversity**
in the church. The challenges
for churches today parallel
the challenges that faced
first-century churches like
the one in Ephesus. We must
remain *unified* as believers,
incorporating our *diversity*
so that we can serve and
glorify our Lord.

Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Explore It Questions



Unity in the Body of Christ
Paul Appeals to the Ephesians
Ephesians 4:1

5. What did Paul urge the Ephesians to do? ([4:1](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

Paul Appeals to the Ephesians

Ephesians 4:1

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ...” (4:1 NKJV)

Unity in the Body of Christ
Virtues that Promote Christian Unity
Ephesians 4:2

6. What three virtues foster unity among Christians? ([4:2](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

Virtues that Promote Christian Unity

Ephesians 4:2

“...with all lowliness and gentleness with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,” (4:2 NKJV)



Unity in the Body of Christ

Virtues that Promote Christian Unity

Ephesians 4:2

KJV

lowliness

meekness

longsuffering

NKJV

lowliness

gentleness

longsuffering

NIV

humble

gentle

patience

NLT

humble

gentle

patience

-----**LOVE**-----

Unity in the Body of Christ
Christian Conduct Toward Each Other
Ephesians 4:2-6

7. How should Christians conduct themselves toward each other?
Why? ([4:2-6](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

Christian Conduct Toward Each Other

Ephesians 4:2-6

- ² ...with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
- ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;
- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.



Unity in the Body of Christ

Christian Conduct Toward Each Other

Ephesians 4:2-6

Ephesians 4:2

- Humbly
- Gently
- Patiently
- In Love

Ephesians 4:3

- In Unity
- In the Bond of Peace

Ephesians 4:4-6

- In “Oneness”



Unity in the Body of Christ
Seven Elements of Christian Unity
Ephesians 4:2-6

8. What are the seven elements of Christian unity? ([4:4-6](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

Seven Elements of Christian Unity

Ephesians 4:4-6

- ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*
- ⁵ *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*
- ⁶ *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*



Unity in the Body of Christ

Seven Elements of Christian Unity

Ephesians 4:4-6

- One body (v. 4)
- One Spirit (v. 4)
- One Hope (v. 4)
- One Lord (v. 5)
- One Faith (v. 5)
- One Baptism (v. 5)
- One God and Father of all (v. 6)



Unity in the Body of Christ
Christian Unity and the Nature of God
Ephesians 4:4-6

9. How is Christian unity related to the nature of God? ([4:4-6](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

Christian Unity and the Nature of God

Ephesians 4:4-6

⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*

⁵ *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*

⁶ *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Unity in the Body of Christ

Enabled to Live at Peace

Ephesians 4:7

10. How are we enabled to live at peace with each other? ([4:7](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ Enabled to Live at Peace

Ephesians 4:7

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift” (4:7).

Unity in the Body of Christ
The Giver of Grace to Believers
Ephesians 4:7

11. Who gives grace to each believer?
(4:7)



Unity in the Body of Christ

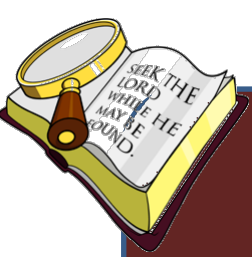
The Giver of Grace to Believers

Ephesians 4:7

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift” (4:7).

Unity in the Body of Christ
Confirmation of God's Gift Giving
Ephesians 4:8

12. How did Paul confirm God's giving of gifts? ([4:8](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

Confirmation of God's Gift Giving

Ephesians 4:8

“Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men” (4:8).

Unity in the Body of Christ
Paul's Commentary on OT Quote
Ephesians 4:9-10

13. What commentary did Paul make on the Old Testament passage he quoted? Why? ([4:9-10](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

Paul's Commentary on OT Quote

Ephesians 4:9-10

“(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens,...

WHY? “...that He might fill all things.)”
(4:9-10)

Unity in the Body of Christ
People God Places in the Church
Ephesians 4:11

14. With what kind of people does God fill the church? ([4:11](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

People God Places in the Church

Ephesians 4:11

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,” (4:11)

Unity in the Body of Christ
The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts
Ephesians 4:12-13

15. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? ([4:12-13](#))



Unity in the Body of Christ

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

Ephesians 4:12-13

“...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (4:12-13)

Unity in the Body of Christ
**Results of Gifted Believers Equipping
the Church**

Ephesians 4:14-16

16. What results from gifted believers equipping the church? (4:14-16)



Unity in the Body of Christ

Results of Gifted Believers Equipping the Church

Ephesians 4:14-16

¹⁴ ...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. **(4:14-16 NKJV)**.

Unity in the Body of Christ
Get It Questions

#17-23

(See Participant Handout)

Unity in the Body of Christ
Apply It Questions

#24-26

(See Participant Handout)

NEXT LESSON

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21

Put Off
the Old

Put On the
New