

13 August 2023

UNITY
and not
UNIFORMITY

Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ephesians 4:1-16

⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:1-16

¹³ 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, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ 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.

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Bearing with one another in love

Ephesians 4:4-6

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

ONE-NESS of the Spirit:

ONE body (*1:23; 3:6; 4:12,16; 5:23, 30*)

ONE Spirit (*1:20; 3:16, 20*)

ONE hope (*1:11-14, 18; 3:6*)

ONE Lord (*1:20-23; 3:10-11*)

ONE faith (*1:13; 4:11-13, 21*)

ONE baptism (*2:1-11*)

ONE God and Father (*1:2, 3, 17; 2:18; 3:14; 5:20; 6:23*)

Ephesians 4:7

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

Ephesians 4:8

⁸ Therefore it says,

**“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”**

Psalm 68:1-5 [ESV]

¹ God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him! ² As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God! ³ But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy! ⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him! ⁵ Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

Psalm 68:15-16 [ESV]

¹⁵ O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan; O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan! ¹⁶ Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount that God desired for his abode, yes, where the LORD will dwell forever?

Psalm 68:19-21 [ESV]

¹⁹ Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah ²⁰ Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death. ²¹ But God will strike the heads of his enemies...

Psalm 68:28-29 [ESV]

**28 Summon your power, O God, the power, O God,
by which you have worked for us. 29 Because of your
temple at Jerusalem kings shall bear gifts to you.**

Psalm 68:33-35 [ESV]

³³ to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. ³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. ³⁵ Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

Ephesians 3:16 [ESV]

¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

The purpose of the gifts: Ephesians 4:12-13

¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ 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,

AGAIN, coming back to unity:

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ 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.