



shofar



*the battle for*  
**ONE-NESS**

**27 August**

## Ephesians 4:1-6 [ESV]

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,<sup>3</sup> *eager to maintain the unity [ONENESS] of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

## Ephesians 4:3 [AMP]

Make every effort to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the bond of peace [each individual working together to make the whole successful].

**KEEP THIS IN MIND AS WE CONTINUE...**

## Matthew 24:3-14 [ESV] Signs of the end of the age

<sup>3</sup> As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.

## Matthew 24:3-14 [ESV] Signs of the end of the age

<sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

## Matthew 24:3-14 [ESV] Signs of the end of the age

<sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- Signs of the end: wars, famine, pestilences, earth quakes
- "Take heed and do not be deceived"
- Tribulation and you will be killed for My name's sake
- Many will fall away
- Betray one another
- Hate one another
- False prophets – deception
- Lawlessness will abound
- The love of many will grow cold
- He who endures to the end – WILL BE SAVED

## Matthew 24:10-13 [ESV]

<sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.



**If we are not eager to maintain the ONE-NESS, there will be a  
FALLING AWAY**



Many will fall away:

skandalizo from skandalon= a trap / a snare

Who sets this trap before us? Who wants to ensnare us?

1 Peter 5:8 [AMP]

Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert *and* cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour.

## How do lions hunt?

They isolate one from the herd, many times the youngest or the weakest ones – then they attack and devour.

## How does Satan hunt?

He isolates the young/immature and the sickly/weak from the rest of the 'herd'/flock – then they are caught in his snare/trap.

## agenda

- An organized plan for matters to be attended to

## strategy

- The practice of reducing an adversary's physical capacity and willingness to fight, and continuing to do so until one's aim is achieved

## tactic

- The actual means used to gain an objective

## agenda

- An organized plan to attach the ONE-NESS of the body of Christ (soldiers in the army of the Lord)

## strategy

- Bring division in the body of Christ

## tactic

- Falling away

Many will fall away:

skandalizo from skandalon= a trap / a snare

Matthew 24:10 [NKJV]

<sup>10</sup> And then many will be *offended*...

What is the tactic of the enemy?

**OFFENSE!!**



## Proverbs 18:1 [NKJV]

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.

## Matthew 12:30 [NKJV]

<sup>30</sup> He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

**There are only 2 sides to this war: you either help gather the flock (Kingdom of Heaven) or you help scatter abroad (Kingdom of Darkness)**

and betray one another: those who fall away (become offended) betray us.

They were supposed to stand next to you, shield you, support you, encourage you. But offense has ostracised (fall away) them from the whole (ONE BODY) – now you are left vulnerable to attack from the “opening” created by the one who left.



## 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy *strongholds*. <sup>5</sup> We destroy *arguments* and every *lofty opinion* raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,



Those who have become offended develop these thought patterns / mechanisms to protect from getting hurt again.

Betrayal is when my benefit (my protection) comes at the expense (I remove myself as his/her ally/support) of another.

Paul is saying: our weapons destroy the way people think, sinful thought patterns, mental structures by which they live in rebellion against God.

## Matthew 24:10-13 [ESV]

<sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and *hate* one another.

## 1 John 3:15 [NKJV]

<sup>15</sup> Whoever hates his brother *is* a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

## hate one another:

“feel intense dislike for”

## 2 Samuel 13:22 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar.

## hate according to the Bible:

A loveless vacuum

## Matthew 24:11 [NKJV]

<sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

**OFFENSE is the breeding ground for deception!**

## Matthew 7:15 [ESV]

<sup>15</sup> “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

**wolves in shepherd’s clothing?**

**travel in packs**

**isolates from the herd – protection in the herd**

hurt

offense

stronghold

isolation

deception

the world

spiritual  
community

spouse/  
children

leader/  
pastor

## Matthew 24:12 [ESV]

<sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the *love* of many will grow cold.

## Greek words for "love" in the New Testament:

Eros: sensual or romantic love

Philio: brotherly love

Storge: familial love

*Agapē*: unconditional love that comes from God

When the word "agape" is used in the Bible, it refers to a pure, willful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another's highest good.

In the last days, offense will not only be widespread outside the church; it will be IN THE CHURCH – agape love is something that God gives to His children, it does not exist outside of the body of Christ.

This is a gradual process that started with offense.