

Paul's Letter to  
The Ephesians



**Lesson 4-Christian Unity, Spiritual gifts, and becoming a New Person Focus: Ephesians 4:1-32**

**1. The Unity of Christ and the power of oneness in Him (v.1-6)**

- a. *The Apostle pleads with believers, through the Spirit, that we would “walk worthy of our calling.” Christ has called all of us to such a high calling of godliness and holiness. God has immensely [greatly] blessed us with so many spiritual blessings in Christ. He has empowered us through Christ to live victorious, righteous lives! And now, believers are being called to live by that high and holy standard of God’s word.*
- b. *(v.2) With **humility, patience, and “bearing with one another” we are called to live.** “Endeavoring to **keep the unity** of the Spirit with the bond of peace” (v.3).*
- c. *(v.4-6) **God is one, and He calls all to be united as one in Him, according to His righteous truth.** (See also **John 17:20,21**; 1 Corinthians 1:10). We are called to live by God’s unity and oneness; united upon the truth of God’s Holy Word, not the lies of men. Do not ever sacrifice the holy principles of God’s Holy word for the sake of some kind of superficial unity which has no true basis in God’s word. Let us rather be united upon the holy truth of His word. All the “true worshipers” of God “must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth” “for the Father seeks such to worship Him” (John 4:23-24).*

**2. When Jesus ascended back to Heaven, He gave spiritual gifts to His followers (v.7-11)**

- a. *Christ ascended up above “all the heavens” (v.10)—that is, the sky [world’s atmosphere], the starry heavens [outer and inner space], and right to the dwelling place of God—Heaven itself!*
- b. *Spiritual gifts were given to the church (v.11)—Not all were to receive the same gifts—these are distributed as God wills (ref. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11). God gave Apostles, prophets, Evangelists, pastors, teachers, etc. to His church! The work and messages of all these are still needed by God’s people today—more than ever!! (As we are preparing for Christ’s soon return!)*

**3. What is the true purpose of all these Spiritual gifts given by God? (v.12-16)**

- a. *(v.12-14) These spiritual gifts are to bring us into **(1)** the unity of the faith, **(2)** the knowledge of Christ—the Son of God, **(3)** and “the measure of the fullness of the stature of Christ”(v.13) [to have the character of Jesus Christ produced within us!! **The messages of the Apostles and Prophets**, the faithful labors of Evangelists, Pastors, and true Bible teachers should begin to produce these things in us. **This true and saving knowledge of God will give real stability to our faith** so that we are not “tossed around” by “every wind of doctrine [teaching]” that cunning, crafty, and deceitful men throw out there. We must be truly rooted and grounded in the word of God which is able to preserve us through any kind of foul weather or false teaching. (For further reference see also 2 Timothy 3:15-4:5). **You cannot trust every teaching out there or person who claims to be a teacher of God’s word. You must evaluate all things by the word of God** (For example, see Acts 17:11).*
- b. *(v.15,16) **Speaking the truth of God’s word “in love” we may “grow up” into the true image of Jesus Christ!** Each part of Christ’s body, the church, must do its appointed work and function. If we do our*

*part, sharing these spiritual gifts, doing the work connected with them, then Christ's body, the church, will be very much strengthened and made healthy by the true and living word of God!*

**4. Putting off the old man—the old filthy character from us (v.17-22)**

- a. Christ's followers are not to walk "in the futility [vanity] of their minds" as do the Gentiles [godless] peoples of this world!! "Through the ignorance that is in them" they are "alienated from the life of God" (v.17,18). They are "past feeling" and need to have their hearts cleansed by Jesus Christ. The world today lives and walks in sin, but Christ Jesus calls us to far better, high and holy things in Him!! God calls us to "**put off**" the old man and our old sinful habits of evil conduct!!

**5. The Experience of "putting on the new man"—truly being converted and transformed by Christ (v.23-29)**

- a. (v.23,24) We must be renewed "in the spirit of our minds," thus allowing Christ to re-Create us according to His righteousness and holiness. **Sin starts in the mind. The battle field of our mind must be reclaimed fully as Christ's territory**—not the devil's. "Every thought" of ours must be brought captive "into the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). We must not allow impure thoughts or suggestions to run at liberty in our minds! We should not allow evil or impure thoughts to even be suggested into our minds [whether through corrupt, sinful worldly music, TV, videos, magazines, books, or whatever else]. We must protect the avenues of the soul—do not allow filth into your minds and hearts. **Dwell on the blessed, pure, holy, good and true things** (See Philippians 4:8). **Pray whenever you are tempted, that God will re-direct the course of your thoughts** (and train them into the righteous way of holiness). **Bring your mind and thoughts to dwell upon pure and holy subjects—fill your soul with the word of God—read it every day!!!** It is pure and holy having a very sanctifying influence upon our characters (John 17:17; Psalm 119:9-16, 97, 101, 104). *"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).*
- b. (v.25-29) We are to speak the truth in all things! (One body must not send false signals to other parts of the same body—we are all a part of this "one body"!!) **Forgive each other** (do not let the sun go down upon your anger—work things out, forgive, and let them go—between the both of you, not just one of you—before the day ever ends. Let the problem be gone, never to darken another day!). **Don't give the devil any room whatsoever to work!** (Don't let the evil one have any opportunities to mess up you and your family's love).
- c. (v.28,29) **Don't steal or commit crimes** (rather BE TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST—**do honest work!!**). **Do not let perverse language come from out of your mouth.** Don't even think it in your head!! The sin starts in your mind. If you curse in your mind, your mouth will utter it before you even know it. Ask for God's help to deliver you from the use of such foul language; such filthy words that would bring reproach upon the holy name of Christ! "If any man...does not bridle his tongue" that man's religion is worthless (James 1:26)!

**6. Do not grieve God's Spirit, but rather, let all bitterness, evil speaking, anger, and filth be put away from you (v.30-31)** *"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another..." This is God's way through Jesus Christ. Jesus calls us to be this way!! We MUST live this way. Christ calls us to find forgiveness, love, and peace. We must have tender hearts for each other!*

**Question (s) for the Heart:**

*Is it your prayerful desire to receive Christ, putting away the "old" character, and being transformed through Jesus into a "new person" with God's righteous character? \_\_\_\_\_*