

One Body in Christ Ephesians 4:1-16

I. Exhortation to Unity - 4:1-3

1. Called to live as one in Christ - 1
Christ's sacrifice made Jew & Gentile one in Him
Paul is in prison because of this truth
Challenge is to live out this oneness in Christ
2. Challenged to keep unity of the Spirit - 3
Spirit placed us in one body in Christ - 1 Cor. 12:13
Challenge is to protect unity & promote peace
3. Committed to attitude that promotes unity - 2
Lowliness, meekness - a humble, submissive spirit
Longsuffering - forbearing one another in love

II. Elements of Unity - 4:4-6

1. One Body - Truth taught in Ephesians 2-3
2. One Spirit – Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us
3. One Hope - We all share hope in Christ
4. One Lord - Who is Head of the body
5. One Faith - We embrace the same truths
6. One Baptism - All identified with Christ
7. One God - We all worship the same God
8. One Father - All members of same family
Our Father is authoritative head of His family
He works in each of us to accomplish His purpose

III. Equipment for Unity - 4:7-11

1. Supply of Grace - Gifts for body functioning - 7
Christ gives each body member ability to function
Each one has something to contribute to the body
2. Spoils of Victory - Won for us by Christ - 8-10
Quote from Psalm 68:18 - A Hymn of victory
Our Lord triumphed over His enemy – Col. 2:15
He set free those held in Sheol (Paradise)
Jesus spoke of this in Luke 16:22 as Abraham's bosom
Paradise is now in Heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-4)
Sacrifice of Christ opened heaven to O.T. saints
(Heb. 9:15)
As Conquering King He gave gifts to His people
Spoils of His victory are now shared with His people
Spiritual gifts enabling us to serve one another
Rom. 12:5-8; 1Cor. 12:4-11; 1Pet. 4:10-11
These gifts are speaking gifts & serving gifts
3. Specific Gifts given to build up the body - 11
Apostles given authority to establish the church
Prophets to receive N.T. truth from God
Evangelists to communicate Gospel message
Pastors & teacher to teach & help believers to apply truth
Gifts for communicating God's truth to His people

IV. Edification in Unity - 4:12-16

1. Purpose of these Gifts – 12-13

- Equip saints for ministry within the body
Build up Christ's body, make it a vessel fit for Him
That the body might function under His control
2. Perils facing an under-developed body - 14
Like immature children swayed by others
 3. Program for "Body-building" - 15
Lovingly exercising Christ's truth with one another
 4. Product of "Body-building" - 16
Strong, well-coordinated body directed by the Head
A united body communicating God's love to the world