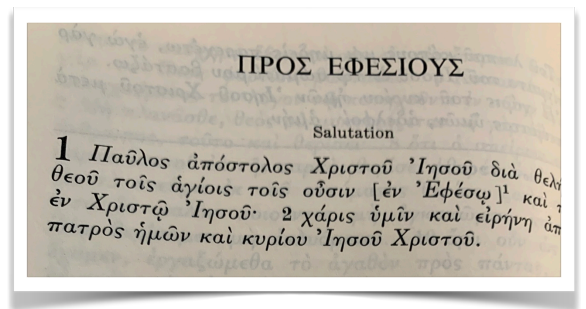


# Paul's Letter to the CHURCH AT EPHESUS



## Ephesians 4

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### (EPHESIANS 3:1-21)

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<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; <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.

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### "THEREFORE..." LOOKING TOWARD

- ❖ As a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord...
- ❖ Implore you...
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ plead, beg (implications?)
  - ❖ Walk in a manner \_\_\_\_\_ of the calling with which you have been called — What's this?

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### ATTITUDES OF UNITY

- ❖ With all (define)
  - ❖ humility
  - ❖ gentleness
  - ❖ patience
  - ❖ tolerance
  - ❖ in love
- ❖ Why????
- ❖ Implications for us?

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### IS THERE ANY EFFORT TO THIS UNITY?

- ❖ Be diligent...
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ the unity of the Spirit
  - ❖ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of peace

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and

- ❖ There is one...
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ (what's this?)
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ (why mention this?)
  - ❖ one \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of all

- ❖ What's Paul's argument?
- ❖ What are the implications for today?
  - ❖ One body?
  - ❖ One hope?
  - ❖ One faith?
  - ❖ One baptism?

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### ONE BODY, DIFFERENT GIFTS

- ❖ "According to the measure of Christ's gift..." — what is this?
- ❖ V. 8 quotes Psalm 68:18
  - ❖ Paul: When He \_\_\_\_\_ on high, He led captive a host of \_\_\_\_\_, and He gave \_\_\_\_\_ to men."
  - ❖ Psalm 68:18 – "You have ascended on high, You have led captive Your captives; You have \_\_\_\_\_ gifts among men..."
  - ❖ What happened here?
- ❖ Probably...
  - ❖ Only the \_\_\_\_\_ part of the Psalm verse is actually quoted
  - ❖ Paul deliberately changes the second part to make a point about...
    - ❖ Christ's triumph, and ours

of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

**14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

**16** from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

**17** So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you

- ❖ And as victorious king, distributing spoil among His army — gifts among the \_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ Vss. 9, 10 — Paul’s inspired NT explanation of descension and ascension
  - ❖ Original text speaks of the LORD’s triumph over the \_\_\_\_\_ and receiving spoil \_\_\_\_\_ men
  - ❖ Paul now sees Christ as having descended to earth, triumphed over \_\_\_\_\_ and its \_\_\_\_\_, ascended victoriously to heaven, and divided spoil among His own
- ❖ What are some of these gifts?
  - ❖ apostles (who are they, are they still around?)
  - ❖ prophets (who are they, are they still around?)
  - ❖ evangelists (who are they, are they still around?)
  - ❖ pastors (who are they, are they still around?)
  - ❖ teachers (who are they, are they still around?)
- ❖ For what purpose?
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ the saints for the work of \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❖ to the \_\_\_\_\_ up of the body of Christ
  - ❖ until we all attain to...
    - ❖ unity of the \_\_\_\_\_ (?)
    - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God
    - ❖ to a \_\_\_\_\_ man
    - ❖ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fullness of Christ
- ❖ No longer to be children
  - ❖ easily diverted and persuaded by every wave or wind of \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ of men
  - ❖ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ❖ deceitful \_\_\_\_\_

walk no longer just as the  
Gentiles also walk, in the futility  
of their mind, <sup>18</sup> being darkened  
in their understanding, excluded  
from the life of God because of  
the ignorance that is in them,  
because of the hardness of their  
heart; <sup>19</sup> and they, having  
become callous, have given  
themselves over to sensuality for  
the practice of every kind of  
impurity with greediness. <sup>20</sup> But  
you did not learn Christ in this  
way,

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## THE CHRISTIAN WALK

- ❖ Who are the Gentiles in this context?
- ❖ How do they walk?
  - ❖ What does it mean to be darkened in your understanding?
  - ❖ What does it mean to be “excluded from the life of God”?
- ❖ In what way were they ignorant?
- ❖ How did their “hardness of heart” contribute to their ignorance?
  - ❖ What is “hardness of heart”?
  - ❖ Application to us?
- ❖ What does it mean to be “callous”?
  - ❖ How does this happen?
  - ❖ Is this related to “hardness of heart”?
  - ❖ What does it mean to “give yourself over to...” something?
- ❖ What had the Gentiles given themselves over to?
  - ❖ What is sensuality?
  - ❖ What is impurity?
  - ❖ How were they indulging these?
- ❖ “But you did not learn Christ in this way...”
  - ❖ What does this mean?