



HEALTHY CHURCHES:

*Live Out Unity*  
(Ephesians 4:1-16)



*Q: What's the point of Unity?*

- *Achieving more together than you do on your own*
- *Concentrating on your main group goals rather than individual glory*
- *Supporting each other*
- *One plan and agreement, less confusion*
- *Allowing individual talents to prosper as part of a joined-up team*
- *Keeps peace and order*
- *Saves energy*

## EPHESIANS 4:1-16

### *Unity in the Body of Christ*

**4** 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.



<sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.<sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."<sup>9</sup> (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?<sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,<sup>13</sup> 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,<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,<sup>16</sup> 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.

*Q: Why Should We Desire Unity?*

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## GOD DESIRES UNITY

*John 17:20-23*

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

## GOD DESIRES UNITY

*Acts 20:28*

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

*Ephesians 2:14-16*

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

## UNITY MAKES US STRONG

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ESV*

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

*Q: Unity in what?*

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## OUR CALLING – TO MAKE DISCIPLES

*Matthew 4:18-19*

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

*Matthew 28:18-20*

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## OUR CALLING – TO BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST

*Galatians 2:20*

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

*Colossians 3:16*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God

## OUR CALLING – TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OUR NEIGHBOUR

*Matthew 22:36-40*

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."





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the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,<sup>16</sup> 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.

*And we're listening to either or other?*



*Q: How do we live out Unity?*

Instructions/Tasks/Jobs in  
Ephesians 4

Apostles  
Prophet  
Evangelist  
Shepherds/Pastors  
Teachers

Humility  
Gentleness  
Patience  
Bearing with one another

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To build a church that is God-centred, Bible-based and Spirit-filled.

That we would be the people God has called us to be in serving His purposes through the place, region and world that we live in.

To be a people in God's Kingdom who are locally committed yet globally connected.

We desire to see people introduced to Christ and become members of a community where they can grow to maturity and that this community would make an impact for God's Kingdom.

We want to see the spiritual regeneration of this town and the surrounding area come through proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and expressed through social action.

To be inclusive of all ages, classes and races, helping them find love, acceptance, help, forgiveness, guidance and encouragement through Jesus Christ.

To have a facility that would be a resource centre to both the community we live in and for the Kingdom of God

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*(Ephesians 4:1-16)*