



A Study of Ephesians

BISHOP EDDIE GROSS

CLASS 6 - OUR NEED OF UNITY

Scripture:

Ephesians 4:1-6

Unity in Our Walk

Ephesians 4:1 “I, therefore, the prisoner [a]of the Lord, [b]beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

- “beseech” - this is equivalent to saying “above all you need get this” -
 - AMP - “Appeal and beg” - to “walk” - always speaks to lifestyle - the way one lives one’s life Further reading: Psalms 1
- AMP: “life worthy of the calling to which you have been called [that is, to live a life that exhibits godly character, moral courage, personal integrity, and mature behavior—a life that expresses gratitude to God for your salvation],”
- Mark 8:34-35 “34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”
- Note: How does a symphony play such beautiful and complex music? Orchestra can have 100’s of people but sounds awesome- harmonious? Each artist (brass, woodwinds, strings, percussion) are all committed to playing the from the same sheet of music!
- Dissonance = lack of harmony among musical notes. Paul is warning us not to live out of harmony with the life (lifestyle) that we’ve been called into!

- Principle: The Holy Spirit is the “conductor” that let’s us know when we’re out of tune in our living
- We get out of tune when we live our lives using the wrong “sheet of music” - Anything other than The word of God
- Principle: When the Holy Spirit is conducting you life you will never be out of harmony in terms of what God’s agenda/plan is
- Romans 8:5-8 “ 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be [b]carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the [c]carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Unity in Our Relationships

Ephesians 4:2-3 “ 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

- We are in danger of developing such an “Individualized Christianity” a customized Christ - a Christ to your taste and liking
- Unity is not possible with others until there is unity within ourselves! When you know WHO you are.. the opinions of others doesn’t carry a lot of weight
- AMP: verse 2 “with all humility [forsaking self-righteousness], and gentleness [maintaining self-control], with patience, bearing with one another in [unselfish] love.“
 - Image what our lives would be like if no longer had anything to prove!
 - The problem we still have a need to PROVE to people:
- Lowliness is not fake piety - but it is living with nothing to prove
- Meekness is NOT weakness but it is power under control..
- Endeavoring - “to do quickly” - “to be ready” - Unity doesn’t come easy it takes WORK!
- James 3:16-18 “16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

- Principle: Unity can't be demanded - it must be worked for

Unity in Our Doctrine

Ephesians 4:4-6 “4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in [c]you all.”

- Principle: We can't make a journey together when we're using different maps!
- There has to be ONE standard.. and that standard is Christ... (not buddah, hindu, confucius, crystals, sage burning, demonology, astrology)
- 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 “10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. “
- Jesus declared that His sheep hear His voice and other they will not follow!
- In order for us to come to a place of unity in the faith, someone has to teach us the faith!
- This is why it is vitally important where you're taught!

Unity is the key!

In our walk

In our relationships

In our doctrine