

THE UNITY NEEDED FOR OUR MISSION

Introduction – Christ sacrificed Himself to reconcile us to God and bring alienated people together in the Christ Community. God is working through us by the power of the Spirit to continue this mission on the earth.

Ephesians 3:20-21

A. Make Every Effort to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:1-6

1. Unity requires us to be completely humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love.
2. Christ created peace and it is up to us to maintain this peace in our congregation.
3. The oneness of God's nature is reflected in one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one Father of all.

B. Grace Gifts

Ephesians 4:7-13

1. Psalm 68 pictures Yahweh defeating His enemy and returning in a triumphal parade with gifts to distribute to His people. Jesus descended into Hades to defeat Satan and lead our righteous prisoners.
2. The letter moves from a corporate or community message in Christ to our individual giftedness.
3. Leadership is a gift of God to each congregation to equip every Christian for ministry.
4. The goal is our maturity in Christ-likeness that comes from us building one another up.

C. Church Growth

Ephesians 4:14-16

1. Immature people are easily manipulated by cunning schemes that create chaos rather than community unity.
2. This requires us to be able to speak frankly with one another motivated by love.

3. Connected to each another as a body with Christ as our head, we will grow evangelistically and build one another up so that we mature.

Conclusion – This vision of unity and growth will only occur if each one of us does his part. Our giftedness is unique to us, but the purpose for these gifts is the common good not selfishness.

1 Peter 4:10-11