

Ephesians

Lesson #15, Chapter 4:1-16

Read all of Chapter 4 before beginning this lesson. Ask God to help you understand and apply His word to your life.

1. Paul begins Chapter 4 by writing, *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you*. What does Paul entreat the Ephesians to do according to verse 1?
2. What previous thoughts is Paul now connecting to Chapter 4 with the “therefore” in his opening statement, *I, therefore, the prisoners of the Lord* (Ephesians 4:1)?
3. What does Paul mean when he urges the Ephesians—and us—to *walk in a worthy manner*? See also Phil. 1:27; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:12.
4. Why are you to walk in a worthy manner according to verse 1? Why should that truth make a difference in your daily life?
5. Verses 2-3 provide a picture of what it looks like to walk in a worthy manner. What do you learn?

6. Define the following words from verse 2-3.
- a. *Humility* (NKJV *lowliness*; NIV *be completely humble* [Strong's #5012]). See also Phil. 2:3-4; Col. 3:12-13; 1 Pet. 5:5.

 - b. *Gentleness* (NKJV *meekness* [Strong's #4236]). See also Gal. 5:22-23; Col. 3:12; Titus 3:2.

 - c. *Patience* (NKJV *longsuffering* [Strong's #3115]). See also Gal. 5:22; Col. 1:10-11; 2 Tim. 3:10.

 - d. *Tolerance* (NKJV, ESV, NIV *bearing with* [Strong's #430]). See also 1 Cor. 4:12; Col. 3:13.

 - e. *Diligent* (ESV *eager*; NKJV *endeavoring*; NIV *make every effort* [Strong's #4704]). See also 2 Tim. 2:15.
7. Where does the unity of believers come from (verse 3)? What do you learn from verses 4-6 about the unity of the Spirit?
8. From verses 4-6, explain why it is so important to maintain unity among believers.

16. Why does Paul need to caution us to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit at the forefront of his discussion (see verse 3) on the wonderful gifts that Christ gives every believer?
17. Let's return to verses 9-10. When Paul quoted Ps. 68:18 to provide further evidence of God's intentions toward believers, it moved him to write about an important parenthetical thought. What is he explaining in verses 8-10? What does this truth have to do with Christ's ability to give gifts to men?

The central thought in verses 8–10 is that the Giver of the gifts is the ascended Christ. There were no such gifts before He went back to heaven. This lends further support to the contention that the church did not exist in the OT; for if it did, it was a church without gifts.¹

18. Verse 14 begins with the phrase *as a result* (ESV *so that*; NIV *then*; NKJV *that*). In your own words, summarize what Paul has been saying in the previous verses as he now transitions into a new thought in verse 14.
19. What are we to no longer be (verse 14)? Why?
20. Instead, what are we to be like? Verse 15.

¹William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad. Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995. Eph 4:10.

21. The idea of *speaking* the truth is to be a *follower* of truth, to *live and speak* the truth. How are we to speak and live the truth according to verse 15? Why is that quality necessary when living closely with other believers?

22. What is to be the result of speaking the truth in love (verses 15-16)?

23. What picture is painted about the unity and interdependence of the members of the body of Christ in these verses?

24. Why is your role and service necessary to the body of Christ? Think about your current involvement at church. Are you doing your part to ensure that the body is being built up into Christ's likeness? How can you minister to others more effectively in your home and at church?

"The whole body must fit in with all its parts if it is to work properly together. Paul speaks of 'the working in due measure of each separate part,' which brings out the variety of functions that are exercised by the parts of the body and the importance of balance. If one part of the body overperforms, there is a malfunction; the same is true if it underperforms. There is a proper balance in every fit and healthy body. And what is true of the physical human body is true also of the church, the body of Christ. Each of us is to fulfill his or her proper function, neither slacking on it so that our work is left undone, nor taking over functions that properly belong to someone else."² ~Leon Morris

²Morris, Leon. *Expository Reflections on the Letter to the Ephesians*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1994. 132.