

**Grace Bible Church**  
**Adult Elective Winter 2017**  
**Topic: Ephesians**  
**Facilitator: David W. Brzezinski**  
**Textbook Recommended: Living Insights - Ephesians by Chuck Swindoll**

**Ephesians Chapter 4**

- 4:1-3
  - Paul implores believers to apply the truth of Christ to their lives. (Gk. *parakaleo* = urge, exhort)
  - Paul urges believers to walk worthily (Gk. *axios*) of their calling. In other words, they should actively live lives according to what God has/asks of them.
    - Humility: Christ first and others next.
    - Gentleness: Considers others above oneself and outwardly manifest a humble demeanor (not harsh, not hostile, etc.).
    - Patience: exercise humility and humbleness in difficult circumstances.
    - Tolerance: exercise humility and humbleness with people who may be “challenging” (a.k.a. difficult, offensive, etc.).
      - Note: This entails extending grace and mercy to others.
      - Note: This does NOT mean accepting sin or sinful behaviors.
    - Love: We should show unconditional love to others (Gk. *agape*)
      - OPPOSITE: The opposite of what Paul taught would be: pride/arrogance, harshness, impatience, intolerance, and hate
- 4:4-6
  - One body: Inclusion of all believers – slave/free, Jew/Gentle, male/female, rich/poor, educated/uneducated, black/white, etc.
  - One Spirit: Holy Spirit indwells all believers.
  - One hope of our calling: All believers embrace the Hope found in Christ for eternal life and a right relationship with God.
  - One Lord: Christ.
  - One faith: one set of beliefs (the TRUTH of God, Christ, salvation, etc.). Cf. Jude 1:3
  - One baptism: Baptisms by the Spirit (upon salvation) into the body of Christ.
  - One God and Father of all: God the Father is over all and through all and in all. All things are unified through Him.
- 4:7-8
  - The key for Paul is that unity should happen via diversity as members of Christ’s body perform service that is unique to them and their gifting.

- Christ gave us saving grace as well as sanctifying grace (so that we can do something practically!!!).
- Paul refers back to Psalms 68:18
  - Christ triumphed.
  - Following Christ's life, death, burial, and resurrection, Christ ascended into heaven victorious.
- 4:9-10
  - Meaning of "Christ descended":
    - 1. Earthly, physical sphere: Incarnation, physical planet earth, Joseph's tomb, etc.
    - 2. Holy Spirit descends (sent from Christ) upon the church at Pentecost.
    - 3. Time between Christ's death and resurrection when Christ descended to Sheol/Hades in order to appear to wicked spirits and departed saints. Cf. 1 Peter 3:18-20
  - Bottom line: Christ's victory allowed Him to lead others victoriously and to send the Holy Spirit to manifest His power within the church.
- 4:11
  - Spiritual gifts are special abilities, given only to believers (directly from God), which enable the believer to serve God in a specific way within the body of Christ.
    - All believers have at least one spiritual gift.
    - Only believers have spiritual gifts.
    - These gifts can be used with natural abilities (through practice, teaching, learning, etc.), but they are unique and not the same as natural abilities.
    - Spiritual gifts focus all the glory back to God (and none to the believer).
    - All spiritual gifts are equally important.
      - Cf. 1 Cor. 12:4-6,7, 12-25; 14:1, 26; Eph. 4:12; 1 Pet. 4:11
  - Gifts mentioned in Ephesians:
    - Apostles: seen and/or heard the risen Christ [NO LONGER!]
    - Prophets: prophecy and call back to God [NO LONGER!]
    - Evangelist: bring gospel to unbelievers and unbelieving regions
    - Pastor-Teacher: shepherd and teach the flock (likely "elder" role in the early church)
- 4:12-16
  - Growth occurs when believers grow in knowledge and exercise spiritual gifts.
  - Purposes:
    - Immediate: equip saints (shift from leadership to the body!!!)
    - Intermediate: promote unity in knowledge, doctrine, and practice
      - CORE: Who God is, what He has/is doing, how we serve Him

- Ultimate: All believers submit to Christ’s headship, walk in the Spirit, cooperate together, and reach the lost for Christ.
- 4:17-19
  - Believers have been transformed via Christ’s work and should live a new life via the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - “Walking like the Gentiles” is meant to show the old, unregenerate life. This was characterized by:
    - 1. Dark mind – lacking spiritual perception
    - 2. Hard heart – callousness which is the root of the darkness and ignorance
      - total rebelliousness
    - 3. Sinful life – the moral and ethical bottom
      - note: Paul is referring to unbelievers, but believers may, occasionally, fall back into old sins....
- 4:20-24
  - The believer’s new self is derived from Christ’s righteousness and holiness.
  - Practical: How do we renew our minds? By an intimate relationship with Christ.
- 4:25-32
  - Our old self (and all its negative traits/attributes/etc.) negatively affects our relationship with both God and others.
  - The believer’s behaviors should reflect his/her belief/faith.
    - From falsehood to truthful speech: all forms of lying and deception changes to total truthfulness and a lack of any form of misleading.
      - Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44), but God is truth (Isaiah 65:16)
    - From sinful rage to controlled indignation: Our anger should be directed to sin and not be sinful (sinful anger holds grudges, desires revenge, and harms others).
      - Are we angry enough (in righteousness)?
    - From dishonest gain to honest labor: work to provide for oneself and others.
    - From unwholesome speech to edifying speech: build others up.
    - From hateful attitudes to loving ones: love, care, forgive so that the Holy Spirit is pleased.
      - Grieving the Holy Spirit is inflicting agonizing distress upon God (same Gk. verb *lypeo* used in Matt. 26:37 when Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane).
  - APPLICATION: 1 John 1:9 and Romans 12:1-2
    - Keep your life right before God by walking with Him and confessing all sins.