

EPHESIANS 4 | Unity, Maturity, and the New Self Life

Unity

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,¹ urge you (pl.) to walk (aor.)² in a manner worthy (ἀξίως) of the calling³ to which you have been called, 2 with all humility (ταπεινοφροσύνη)⁴ and gentleness (πραΰτης), with patience (μακροθυμία),⁵ bearing (ἀνέχω, pres.)⁶ with one another in love,⁷ 3 being diligent (σπουδάζω, pres.)⁸ to keep the unity (ένότης)⁹ of the Spirit in the bond¹⁰ of peace.¹¹ 4 There is one body¹² and one Spirit¹³—just as you were called to

¹ **Eph 3:1** 1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Messiah Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles....

² See *Living by the Spirit*. **1 Th 2:12** 12 ...We exhorted each one of you, encouraged you, and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

³ See *God's Special Call*.

⁴ See *Humility*.

⁵ See *Patience*.

⁶ “[T]o regard w. tolerance, endure, bear with, put up with” (*BDAG*, 78). **Col 3:13** 13 ...Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other. As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

⁷ See *Love for Believers*.

⁸ “[T]o be especially conscientious in discharging an obligation, be zealous/eager, take pains, make every effort, be conscientious” (*BDAG*, 939). See *Diligence*.

⁹ “[A] state of oneness or of being in harmony and accord, *unity*” (*BDAG*, 338). See *Unity*.

¹⁰ **Col 3:14** 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

¹¹ See *Peace*.

¹² See *Church*. **Eph 1:22-23** 22 And [the Father] put all things under [Messiah's] feet and gave him as head over all things to the Church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. **Eph 2:16** 16 ...And might reconcile us [Jews and Gentiles] both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

¹³ See *Holy Spirit*. **Eph 2:18** 18 For through [Messiah] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

the one hope¹⁴ that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord,¹⁵ one faith,¹⁶ one baptism,¹⁷ 6 one God and Father¹⁸ of all, who is over all,¹⁹ through all, and in all.²⁰

Gifts

7 But grace²¹ was given to each one²² of us according to the measure (μέτρον) of Messiah's gift/bounty (δωρεά).²³ 8 Therefore it says,

When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to people (άνθρώποις).²⁴

9 (In saying, he ascended, what does it mean but that he had also descended²⁵ into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended²⁶ far above all the

¹⁴ See *Hope*. **Eph 1:18** 18 ...Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you....

¹⁵ See *Jesus as Lord*. **Zec 14:9** 9 And Yahweh will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one. **1 Co 1:13** 13 Is Messiah divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul? **1 Co 8:6** 6 ... Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord Jesus Messiah, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. **1 Co 12:5** 5 ... There are varieties of service, but the same Lord....

¹⁶ See *Theology*. V. 13. **Jud 3** 3 ...I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

¹⁷ See *Spirit Baptism*. **Ga 3:27-28** 27 For as many of you as were baptised into Messiah have put on Messiah. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Messiah Jesus.

¹⁸ See *God the Father*. **1 Co 12:6** 6 ...There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

¹⁹ See *All, God's Sovereignty and God's Transcendence*.

²⁰ See *God's Immanence*.

²¹ See *Grace*. **Eph 3:2** 2 ...Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me [Paul] for you....

²² Every believer has one or more spiritual gifts.

²³ See *Spiritual Gifts*. V. 16. **Ro 12:3** 3 For by the grace given to me I [Paul] say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

²⁴ **Ps 68:18** 18 You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that Yahweh God may dwell there.

²⁵ See *Jesus' Incarnation*. **Jn 3:13** 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

²⁶ See *Jesus' Ascension*.

heavens,²⁷ that he might fill²⁸ all²⁹ things.) 11 And he gave the apostles,³⁰ the prophets,³¹ the evangelists,³² the shepherd³³-teachers,³⁴ 12 to equip (καταρτισμός)³⁵ the saints for the work of ministry, for building up³⁶ the body of Messiah,

Maturity

13 until we all attain to the unity³⁷ of the faith³⁸ and of the knowledge (ἐπίγνωσις)³⁹ of the Son of God, to a complete man (ἄνδρα τέλειον),⁴⁰ to the measure of the full (πλήρωμα)⁴¹ maturity (ἡλικία)⁴² of Messiah, 14 so that we may no longer be children (νήπιος),⁴³ tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine (διδασκαλία),⁴⁴ by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful⁴⁵ schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth (ἀληθεύω, pres.)⁴⁶

²⁷ See *Jesus' Sovereignty*.

²⁸ See *Fulness*.

²⁹ See *All*.

³⁰ See *Apostles*. **1 Co 12:28** 28 And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

³¹ See *Prophets*.

³² See *Evangelism*. **Ac 21:8** 8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

³³ See *Pastoral Ministry*.

³⁴ See *Teaching*. Communication gifts take precedence in the Church because they equip the members to use their other gifts.

³⁵ “[E]xt. fig. sense (not found in ins or pap) *equipment, equipping...though training, discipline...deserve consideration as glosses*” (BDAG, 526).

³⁶ See *Spiritual Growth*.

³⁷ See *Unity*. V. 3.

³⁸ See *Theology*. V. 5.

³⁹ See *Knowledge*.

⁴⁰ See *Spiritual Maturity*.

⁴¹ See *Fulness*.

⁴² “...[T]he age which is sufficient or requisite for certain things, *maturity*...the age of strength...*to the measure of the full maturity of Christ*, who is a mature person (τέλειος), not a (νήπιος) minor...the age of legal maturity, majority...bodily stature” (BDAG, 436).

⁴³ See *Spiritual Immaturity*.

⁴⁴ See *Biblical Worldview*. **Heb 13:9** 9 Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings.... **Jud 12** 12 These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted....

⁴⁵ See *Deceit*.

⁴⁶ See *Truth*.

in love (ἀγάπη),⁴⁷ we are to grow up (αὐξάνω, aor.)⁴⁸ in every way into him who is the head,⁴⁹ into Messiah, 16 from whom the whole body,⁵⁰ joined and held together by every joint with which it is supported (ἐπιχορηγία),⁵¹ when each part is working properly,⁵² makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.⁵³

Put on the New Self

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord [Jesus], that you must no longer walk⁵⁴ as the [unbelieving] nations do,⁵⁵ in the futility of their minds.⁵⁶ 18 They are darkened in their understanding,⁵⁷ alienated⁵⁸ from the life (ζωή)⁵⁹ of God because of the ignorance⁶⁰ that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.⁶¹ 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up⁶² to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.⁶³ 20 But that is not

⁴⁷ V. 25.

⁴⁸ See *Spiritual Growth*. **Eph 2:21** 21 ...In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

⁴⁹ **Eph 1:22** 22 And [the Father] put all things under [Messiah's] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church....

⁵⁰ See *Local Church*.

⁵¹ **Col 2:19** 19 ...And not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

⁵² V. 7.

⁵³ See *Love for Believers*.

⁵⁴ See *Walking*.

⁵⁵ V. 22. **Eph 2:1-3** 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **Col 3:7** 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. **1 Pe 4:3** 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

⁵⁶ See *Mind*. **Ro 1:21** 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

⁵⁷ See *Understanding*.

⁵⁸ **Eph 2:12** 12 ...Remember that you were at that time separated from Messiah, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

⁵⁹ See *Life*.

⁶⁰ See *Knowledge*.

⁶¹ See *Negative Volition*.

⁶² **Ro 1:24** 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves.... **Ro 1:26** 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature.... **Ro 1:28** 28 And because they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

⁶³ See *Purity*.

the way you learned (μανθάνω, aor.)⁶⁴ Messiah!— 21 assuming that you have heard⁶⁵ about him and were taught (διδάσκω, aor.)⁶⁶ in him, as truth (ἀλήθεια)⁶⁷ is in Jesus, 22 to put off⁶⁸ your old self,⁶⁹ which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful⁷⁰ desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind (νοῦς, sing.),⁷¹ 24 and to put on the new self,⁷² created (κτίζω, aor.)⁷³ according to God in righteousness and piety (ὁσιότης)⁷⁴ of the truth (τῆς ἀληθείας).⁷⁵

The New Self Life

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood (τὸ ψεῦδος),⁷⁶ let each one of you speak⁷⁷ truth with his neighbour,⁷⁸ for we are members one of another.⁷⁹ 26 Be angry and do not sin. Do not let

⁶⁴ **Mt 11:29** 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

⁶⁵ **Eph 1:13** 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him.... **Ro 10:14** 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

⁶⁶ See *Teaching*. **Col 2:7** 7 ...Rooted and built up in [Jesus] and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁶⁷ See *Truth*.

⁶⁸ **Col 3:8** 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **Heb 12:1** 1 Therefore, because we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.... **Jas 1:21** 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. **1 Pe 2:1** 1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

⁶⁹ See *Identity in Adam*. **Ro 6:6** 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **Col 3:9** 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices....

⁷⁰ See *Deceit*.

⁷¹ See *Mind*. **Ro 12:2** 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the desire of God, what is good, acceptable, and perfect.

⁷² **Ro 6:4** 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Messiah was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁷³ **Eph 2:10** 10 For we are [God's] workmanship, created in Messiah Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

⁷⁴ "...[S]tate of proper attitude toward God as exhibited in action, *devoutness, piety, holiness*" (*BDAG*, 728).

⁷⁵ The "truth" word group is extremely prominent in this passage. The truth contrasts sharply with deceit. Truth leads to righteousness. Deceit leads to sensuality.

⁷⁶ See *Deceit*.

⁷⁷ See *Words*.

⁷⁸ **Zec 8:16** 16 These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another. Render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace.

⁷⁹ **Ro 12:5** 5 ...So we, though many, are one body in Messiah, and individually members one of another.

the sun go down on your anger,⁸⁰ 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.⁸¹ 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.⁸² 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths,⁸³ but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.⁸⁴ 30 And do not grieve⁸⁵ the Holy Spirit⁸⁶ of God, by whom you were sealed⁸⁷ for the day of redemption.⁸⁸ 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and slander be put away from you, along with all malice (κακία).⁸⁹ 32 Be kind⁹⁰ to one another, tenderhearted (εὐσπλαγχνος),⁹¹ forgiving⁹² one another, as God in Messiah forgave you.

⁸⁰ See *Anger*. **Ps 37:8** 8 Refrain from anger and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself. It tends only to evil.

⁸¹ See *Satan*. **Jas 4:7** 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸² See *Economics* and *Work*.

⁸³ **Eph 5:4** 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. **Col 3:8** 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

⁸⁴ See *Words*. **Col 4:6** 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. **Ec 10:12** 12 The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor, but the lips of a fool consume him.

⁸⁵ **Is 63:10** 10 But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. Therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. **1 Th 5:19** 19 Do not quench the Spirit.

⁸⁶ See *Holy Spirit*.

⁸⁷ **Eph 1:13** 13 In [Messiah] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit....

⁸⁸ See *Redemption*.

⁸⁹ “[A] mean-spirited or vicious attitude or disposition, *malice, ill-will, malignity*” (BDAG, 500). **Col 3:8** 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

⁹⁰ See *Kindness*.

⁹¹ “[P]ert. to having tender feelings for someone, *tenderhearted, compassionate*” (BDAG, 413). **1 Pe 3:8** 8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

⁹² See *Forgiveness*. **Col 3:12-13** 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other. As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **Mt 6:14** 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you....

Discussion Questions

1. Review.

- a. Go over the At a Glance Chart, p. 159.
- b. What's happening in Paul's life when he writes this letter?
- c. Why does Paul write this letter?
- d. What's the mood of Ephesians?
- e. What are chapters 1-3 about?
- f. What is chapter 4 about?
- g. According to chapter 1, why is God blessed?
- h. What is God's plan for the Church?
- i. Where is Jesus now? What is he doing?
- j. Where are the two prayers in Ephesians? For what does Paul pray?
- k. Before salvation, what were the Ephesian saints like?
- l. How were the Ephesian saints saved? What are they saved for?
- m. What do we learn about the four phases of the Christian's life (condemnation, justification, sanctification, glorification)?
- n. What is to be the relationship between believers of various ethnicities in the Church?
- o. Now how are they supposed to live?
- p. What is Paul's mission in life? Why does he call the gospel a mystery?

2. Ephesians 4:1-16.

- a. What are your paragraph themes?
- b. Within the body of Christ, how do we maintain unity?
- c. What is the basis of our unity?
- d. As believers, we obviously have different gifts. Why is that?
- e. Why does God choose some people to be specialised apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherd-teachers?
- f. What is the goal of the Church?
- g. What happens if the Church doesn't grow to maturity?
- h. How is the Church to grow to maturity?

3. Ephesians 4:17-24.

- a. Read the paragraph.
- b. What is your paragraph theme?
- c. How do vv. 17-24 relate to vv. 1-16?
- d. Why must the Ephesian saints no longer walk as the Gentiles do?
- e. What do we learn about the minds, understanding, knowledge of non-Christians?

4. Ephesians 4:25-32.

5. Recap.

Biblical Worldview

1. Ephesians 4-6.

- a. These chapters are about corporate conduct in the new community. With all this wealth, how are we to walk? With all these riches, what are our responsibilities?

2. Ephesians 4.

- a. Paul always explains why. He doesn't just say, "Do this! Do that!" Throughout this chapter, we see tons of therefore's, for's, and because's. He urges the Ephesian believers to holiness based on logic.

3. Unity (Eph 4:1-6).

- a. The Calling to Unity (v. 1).
 - (1) Paul is writing to preserve the unity in the Ephesian church. There is a danger of disunity, especially between its Jewish and Gentiles members.
 - (2) Calling includes everything in Eph 1-3. It is the calling to be unified in one body growing to maturity.
 - (3) As believers in the one Church, we are on a journey together. We are to walk together as a family.
- b. The Lifestyle of Unity (vv. 2-3).
 - (1) Humility.
 - (2) Gentleness.
 - (3) Patience.
 - (4) Tolerance.
 - (5) Diligence.
 - (6) Peace.
 - (7) As family members, we must be with our family in order to learn the attitudes of the family.⁹³ We are to learn and practice these traits progressively over time, with Jesus as our ultimate model.
- c. The Basis of Unity (vv. 4-6).
 - (1) We have a seven-fold unity.
 - (a) One body (v. 4).
 - (b) One Spirit (v. 4).
 - (c) One hope (v. 4).
 - (d) One Lord (v. 5).
 - (e) One faith (v. 5).
 - (f) One baptism (v. 5).
 - (g) One God and Father of all (v. 6).
 - (2) Our unity is complete and transcendent, a very deep reality. It transcends all other unities. Our unity is who we are as God's family, not just a common goal. We seek unity because we are already unified.
 - (3) Unity is fundamental to the Trinity and to the Trinity's relationship to the Church. Unity is internal to God. Unity is also external to God. All that God does he does in a unified way.

⁹³ Steve Reardon.

- (4) These seven “ones” are the core doctrines of the Christian faith. We may determine whether a person or group is with us based on these seven “ones.”

d. Application.

- (1) We are to diligently pursue unity in our local churches.
- (2) We are to assist our brothers and sisters along the journey of life.
- (3) We are to resolve disunity quickly.
- (4) We are to act in the best interest of the Church, not in our own best interest.

4. Gifts and Maturity (Eph 4:7-16).

a. The Source of Our Gifts (vv. 7-10).

- (1) Jesus is the source of our spiritual gifts (v. 7).
- (2) Jesus’ victory over sin and death followed by his ascension to the Father’s right hand allowed the gifts to flow to us (v. 8).
- (3) This accords with the Old Testament prophecies that the Messiah would descend from heaven and ascend back to heaven (vv. 9-10).

b. The Function of Our Gifts.

- (1) The speaking gifts equip the other gifts (vv. 11-12).
- (2) When the gifts of all members work properly, the body grows (v. 16)

c. The Goal of our Gifts (v. 13).

- (1) Doctrinal unity.
- (2) Knowledge (ἐπίγνωσις) of the Son of God.
- (3) Maturity, as opposed to immaturity (v. 14).
- (4) Fulness.

5. Put on the New Self (Eph 4:17-24).

a. The mindset and conduct of unbelievers.

- (1) Mindset.
 - (a) Unbelievers walk in the futility of their minds (v. 17).
 - (b) They are darkened in their understanding (v. 18).
 - (c) They are alienated from the life of God due to ignorance (v. 18).
 - (d) Their ignorance is due to their hardness of heart (v. 18). It all starts here. This is “negative volition.” See *Negative Volition* and *Order of Salvation*.
- (2) Conduct.
 - (a) They have become callous (v. 19).
 - (b) They have given themselves up to sensuality, greed, and every kind of impurity (v. 19). They are creative in their impurity. Creativity is one of God’s gifts to humanity. But in our sin, we abuse it for evil.
 - (c) These things characterised our old life (v. 22). Our life was corrupt through deceitful desires (v. 22).

b. The mindset and conduct of believers.

- (1) Mindset.
 - (a) Jesus teaches something much different (v. 20). We have heard about Jesus and were taught in him (v. 21). He is truth itself (v. 21).
 - (b) We are to be renewed in the spirit of our minds (v. 23).
- (2) Conduct.
 - (a) We are to put off the old self (v. 22) and put on the new self (v. 24).

- (b) This new self is created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (v. 24).

6. The New Self Life (Eph 4:25-32).

- a. This new self way of life has everything do with our personal relationships within the Church (“for we are members one of another,” v. 25).
- b. Speaking the truth continues to be emphasised.
 - (1) **Eph 4:25** 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood (τὸ ψεῦδος), let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour, for we are members one of another.
 - (2) **Zec 8:16** 16 These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another.
- c. Sinful anger is to be avoided, because it gives an opportunity to Satan to divide us.
 - (1) **Eph 4:26** 26 Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.
- d. We are to do honest work so we may be able to give generously.
 - (1) **Eph 4:28** 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
 - (2) If we are able to work, we need to be working. Get off the government benefit!
 - (3) If we are unable to work, we are to accept financial help from our church family.
- e. We are to build up one another with our words.
 - (1) **Eph 4:29** 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
 - (a) **Eph 5:4** 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.
 - (b) **Col 4:6** 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
 - (2) Corrupting talk destroys church unity.
 - (3) Around our church, I hear encouraging, gracious words. Praise God for this!
- f. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we destroy local church unity.
 - (1) **Eph 4:30** 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
 - (a) We are already sealed by the Spirit. And yet we may grieve him.
 - (2) **Is 63:10** 10 But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. Therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.
 - (3) **1 Th 5:19** 19 Do not quench the Spirit.
- g. The “six nasties” destroy church unity. They are “unity killers.”
 - (1) **Eph 4:31** 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
 - (a) Bitterness.
 - (b) Wrath.
 - (c) Anger.
 - (d) Clamour.
 - (e) Slander.
 - (f) Malice (κακία): “a mean-spirited or vicious attitude or disposition” (*BDAG*, 500).
 - (2) Paul says the same thing to the Colossians:

- (a) **Col 3:8** 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
- h. Kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness are the three “unity builders.”
 - (1) **Eph 4:32** 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Messiah forgave you.
 - (a) Kindness ({}):
 - (b) Tenderheartedness (εὐσπλαγχνος): “having tender feelings for someone, compassionate” (*BDAG*, 413).
 - (c) Forgiveness ({}):
 - 1) The basis of our forgiveness of one another is God’s forgiveness of us through the cross of Christ.
 - (2) Paul says to the Colossians:
 - (a) **Col 3:12-13** 12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other. As the Lord [Jesus] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
 - (3) Peter has the same unity agenda:
 - (a) **1 Pe 3:8** 8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.