

# From Calling to Conduct

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## This Study: Ephesians 4:1-16

### I. REMEMBER WHAT GOD DID

Ephesians 1 God blessed us with spiritual blessings; Chapter 2 Our identity in Him:

Chapter 3 The changes in how we look at everything; Chapter 4 How to *live* now that we identify with Jesus.

From **grace received** to **grace lived out**—our **new identity** affects our **new way** of life.

### II. WALK WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING

NKJV Ephesians 4:1 “*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,*

*2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with long suffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*”

We are *called* to walk in a way *worthy* of His grace—every day we want to show divine love toward someone or group.

We try to **unify** people and extend *grace* where we need to forgive. If we can serve someone, we should do that—as a mature believer.

We *behave differently* because God has called us from **Dark to Different**.

To walk worthy of His calling; *Lowliness*—humility; *Meekness*—gentleness; *Longsuffering*—showing patience when facing difficulties.

*Forbearing* in love is being patient and kind when not agreeing on some issue.

We, Ephesians 4:4, “*Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*—not **creating** the unity but **keeping** the unity.

The Holy Spirit brings us together as One with other believers. It is our responsibility to **unify** people—**not divide** them.

### III. WHAT HOLDS US TOGETHER

Ephesians 4:4 “*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 you all.*”

1 **One Body**—the Church; 2 **One Spirit**—the Holy Spirit; 3 **One Hope**—our future home in Heaven;

4 **One Lord**—Jesus; 5 **One Faith**—the Gospel of faith in Christ; 6 **One Baptism**—believing with all our heart on the Lord Jesus Christ; 7 **One God and Father**—who calls us *His children* so we **act** like we *belong* to His family.

We have different personalities; backgrounds; and opinions—but one Lord who can **forgive us** and **give us** the ability to maintain the **unity** of the church.

We all head for the same goal—as we keep the **unity** of the Spirit; keep our faith in Jesus; and *maintain* an *enduring trust* on His atoning sacrifice at Calvary.

### IV. DIFFERENT GIFTS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE

Ephesians 4:7 “*But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.*

8 *Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”*

Every believing Christian who sincerely trusts God in faith for essential life issues, would have something to contribute from the *gifts* Jesus provides.

Ephesians 4:9 “*(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?*

*10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)”*:

Jesus descended from *heaven* to *humanity*—it was all part of God’s plan. He *humbled* Himself, *took* on flesh, *entered* our world, *suffered* for us, *died*, and was *buried*. He then *rose* and *ascended* “*far above all the heavens.*”

He came down→ went to the cross→ rose from the grave→ ascended→ and now reigns on high. He went from lowest to highest—

Philippians 2:9 “*God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name—Ephesians 4:10 that He might fill all things.*”

Christ now has supreme authority over everything, and He fills all things with His presence, power, and purpose. The ascended Christ is still working on earth today through His people.

**Ephesians 4:11** *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*

*12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

Pastors equip the members through speaking full-truth messages. The church is made up of its members—and every member has a purpose—asking God what we can do to help somebody today?

It is our Christian duty to maintain the **unity** of the church—and to show an example of Christian conduct.

It’s not, *“What can the church do for **me**; but what can I do for the **church** with the gifts God has given?”*

## V. GROW IN FAITH

**Ephesians 4:13** *“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect [mature] man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

*14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,”*

God wants us to **mature**—not be *“children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.”*

A mature believer in Christ is not easily blown around by every new teaching or opinion.

Spiritual maturity means *knowing Jesus well enough* that we do *not* move away from our trust on Him—faithful trust is *essential* to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## VI. SPEAK TRUTH IN LOVE

**Ephesians 4:15** *“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ—*

*16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*

It is *loving* someone enough to tell them the *truth* enough—both are needed.

**Truth** keeps love from becoming *sentimental*; **Love** keeps truth from becoming *harsh*. With God’s help we can balance both.

God wants us to grow, mature, and speak truth in love so others can *see* Jesus in the way we *walk* and *talk* and *treat* them.

The goal—*Does your **walk** agree with your **talk**?* Saying: *I want **Jesus** to be **visible** through me.*

Everything points to Jesus—He gives us direction, ability, strength, and purpose.

Christ is the Head and tells us what to do; He directs us in our thoughts and desires and gives us spiritual maturity—which isn't just having

*more information* but learning to respond *more often* to the guidance of the *Spirit* within us.

**16** *“The effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth—as a picture of the church and every member of it because—every member does their share.”*

Some teach; Some preach; Some encourage; Some pray; Some give; and Some serve. Not every part has the same function—but every part has value and purpose.

*“Joined and knit together”* because we are connected to one another through faith in Christ—maintaining **unity** of the Spirit.

It isn’t *“Jesus and me”* its *“Jesus and **us**.”* We *belong* to Christ and are *connected* to others *through Him*.

Walls are removed and we are *“one in Christ.”* Unity is loving one another despite our differences.

The church grows when **Christ** is honored as the Head, **truth** is spoken *in love*, and every **believer** is **willing** to do their part.



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