



August 1, 2021

*"Make every effort to
keep the unity of the
Spirit through the
bond of peace"*
Eph. 4:3

I. Challenge #1: Measuring Up to the Call (Eph. 4:1)

- A. "Therefore" – the pivot point between Chapters 1-3 and 4- 6
- B. Paul – "a prisoner for the Lord" = I am suffering for my faith
- C. "I urge you" (*parakoleo* = call out to come along with me)
- D. Live a life "Worthy" (*axios* = equal weight on a scale) = Measure up! = give as much as received
- E. The calling you have received (Rom. 8:29)

II. Challenge #2: Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3)

- A. "Give every effort" to maintain the unity of the Spirit
- B. What is unity of the Spirit?
 - 1) **Common convictions** about Christ. (Eph. 4:13)
 - 2) **Common confidence** in Christ. (Eph. 4:13)
 - 3) **Common care** for each other. (Eph. 2:14,18)
- C. What unity in the Spirit is NOT:
 - 1) Uniformity = all have to be alike (4:11)
 - 2) Structural Unity = all doing everything the same way
 - 3) Acceptance of all truth = everyone's opinions are true
- D. Spirit unity is focused on the "bond of peace" = maintaining peace with people

III. Challenge #3: Making Peace with Others (Eph. 4:2)

- A. Four active ingredients of unity of the Spirit:
 - 1. "Be completely humble" – Pride divides – Compassion unites
 - 2. "and gentle" – Anger divides – Calm words unite (Matt. 11:29)
 - 3. "Be patient" – Disrespect divides – Long-suffering unites
 - 4. "Bearing with one another in love (agape)" – Bitterness divides – Forgiveness unites (Eph. 4:32)
- B. These are supernatural attitudes given by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
- C. Unity is our testimony to the world (Jn. 17:23)