



WHY CHURCH?

Welcome, if you've just joined us for the first time, or if you're just visiting. You're in for a funny bit of a treat today. What I hope to do today, is share with you about our church, where we've been, and where we're going. We don't do this often, but every now and then it's good to stop, and take a look at how things have developed, and where we see things are going.

EPHESIANS 4

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I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Paul's a prisoner here, and he's writing to the church in ephesus. And he's encouraging them, and he's relating to remind them of their calling (which is being called to Christ)

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**Called to Christ. His believers.
His followers. His disciples.**

Walk in a manner worthy of being called to Christ.

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**Are you walking in a manner
worthy of the calling?**

Walk in a manner worthy of being called to Christ.

In your life, are you walking in a manner worthy of the calling?

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humility
gentleness
patience
bearing with one another in love

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EAGER TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY

I mean it's one thing to want to maintain the unity, it's another thing to be eager.

Now unity is an interesting thing, because the church tries to so hard

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Same attitude
 Sharing
 Live the same way
 Smile
 Do the same thing
 Get along
 Happy
 Agree on everything
 Worship together
 Love

We often confuse unity with uniformity, and we have a hard time trying to embrace diversity whilst maintaining our unity.

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

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God's grace, gives apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, teachers to equip saints for works of ministry. To build up the body of Christ.

What's it mean to build up the body of Christ?

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**maturing in our knowledge of God
& our relationships with one another**

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In other words -- we need to move towards a maturity, in our understanding of God, who he is, and not easily corrupted.

Unity of Faith

Knowledge of God

Growing Up
wisdom
knowledge
application

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¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**community speaking truth in love
submitting more and more to Christ**

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¹⁷Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practise every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

There's a comparison — and it's saying don't go back to the old way of life. Don't get stuck into the way, that it was before.

In other words, one of the reasons you're immature in your faith is that you keep leaning towards that old way of life. That's what's not

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²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbour, **for we are members one of another.**

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. 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. 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. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

here we have a perfect example of how to speak the truth in love to one another. There's a real pastoral tone and quality to this letter, the way Paul writes— it's not as a rebuke, but as a genuine desire to see his brothers and sisters in Ephesus reflect Christ's church —

We see just how diverse the church is. There's anger, and thievery, and corrupting conversation,

putting away those things.

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