

# Ephesians 4:1-16 – In Christ...New Unity

## Intro

For three chapters Paul has been describing God's eternal purposes in and through Jesus Christ. He now moves to look at what it means to live as God's people – the church.

## Read Ephesians 4:1-6

1. Paul urges us to 'keep the unity of the Spirit.' Are we already united or do we need to create unity?
2. In what ways are we united already – what things do we share in common (v.4-6)?
3. What attitudes are essential if we are to keep the unity of the Spirit (v. 2 - 3)?

## Unity and Diversity

4. In verse 11 Paul mentions five particular gifts that are essential for the life of the church. They all relate to teaching or ministering God's word. What are the five gifts?
5. Why are the gifts so essential? If they weren't present in the life of the church what would happen? (Verse 14)
6. What is the result when Christians use their gifts generously and in love?
7. Paul was realistic and also idealistic. He urges us to maintain the unity we already enjoy in the Spirit. Yet he knows that we are tempted to behave in a way that will destroy that unity. How can we help each other to maintain the unity of the Spirit?
8. Can we grow in maturity as God's person/people without other Christians? How does Paul envisage that we grow into maturity?
9. What things are essential for us each to grow into maturity in Christ?
10. How can your Connect Group help you grow into greater maturity as a Christian?
11. 'You can be a Christian without going to church.' What would you suggest to somebody who expressed this attitude?