

**Christ's Church
True Unity in Diversity
Ephesians 4:1-12**

I. Living as Christ's Church – 4:1-3

1. Paul's Challenge – 1
"I therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, urge you"
His challenge is based on what God has done –
Eph. 1-3 The "riches of God's grace"
He urges them as one who is committed to Christ
He is in prison because of this message for
Gentiles
2. Walk worthy of your calling – 1
Christ has saved you and called you to live for Him
What a privilege to be recipients of His grace
3. Bearing with one another in love – 2
This is the essence of "Christ living in us" – 3:17-19
This will call for God's grace working in us
"with all humility and gentleness"
"with all patience, bearing with one another"
4. Eager to maintain unity – 3
Unity is what God's Spirit has made – 2:16; 3:6
The Spirit has placed us in the body of Christ –
1 Cor. 12:13
Our challenge is: "eager to maintain" this unity
We are urged to maintain unity in the "bond of
peace"

II. Reality of Unity in Christ – 4:4-6

1. There is one body – 4
This is the body of Christ, of which He is the head
The only way He can function effectively is in unity
A physical body that is lacking coordination limits
effectiveness
2. There is one Spirit – 4
The same Holy Spirit dwells in each of us
He is the one who placed us into the body
He is the one who brought this body together
He grieves when the body does not function in unity
3. We share the same hope of our calling – 4
That we have eternal life in Christ
That we will each bear likeness to Christ
That we will spend eternity together as God's family
Both Jews & Gentiles (note New Jerusalem –
Rev.21:12, 14)
4. We serve one Lord – Jesus Christ – 5
We are under one head
Seeking to do His will
5. We share One faith – 5
Only one faith brings us into God's family
Faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior & Lord
6. There is One baptism – 5
That openly declares our faith in Jesus Christ
Spirit baptism is work of the Spirit placing us in
Christ's body

- Water baptism is our declaration of faith in Christ
7. There is One God & Father of all - 6
If we are in Christ, God is our Father
We all have the same Father
Thus we are all brothers and sisters, members of
same family
God is our Father
"who is over all and through all and in all"

III. Christ's Great Victory – 4:7-12

1. We all now share in Christ's victory – 7-8
In His death & resurrection He triumphed over sin
He defeated sin, death, hell – sin's consequences
He triumphed over Satan & his kingdom
In His death He provided for all that we needed
2. Paul here quotes from Psalm 68:18
Psalm celebrating a king's victory over his enemies
In victory march he leads captives & shares gifts with
his people
This verse is fulfilled in Christ's Redemptive work
His provision has fully met the need of all believers
Who are these captives He takes with Him?
3. O.T. saints are released from Sheol – 8-10
"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives"
He took them to heaven with Him
This means He had to descend into Sheol where they
were
Hebrew word for "place of departed spirits"
Sheol was described as being in the earth –
1 Sam. 28:13-15
Jesus explained the division of Sheol in Lk. 16:22-31
There was "Abraham's side" (Paradise) separated
From "Place of torment" (Hades) by a "great chasm"
Jesus told thief he would be with Him in Paradise –
Lk. 23:43
Paul spoke of "Paradise" being in the 3rd heaven –
2 Cor. 12:2-3
This would indicate that Christ moved those in it to
heaven
After His blood provided for those under old covenant –
Heb. 9:15
Finished work of Christ opened heaven to O.T. saints
Having met the greatest need for O.T. saints
5. He gave gifts to men – 7
He also, in His victory, provided for living saints
He provided gifts for believers to enable them to live
as His body
These are what is called "spiritual gifts" that we might
live for Him
These gifts enable each believer to function as a
part of His body

