



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Unity

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Bob Bradley

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:4 *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

If you read the story, and you read the scriptures, and if you read the book of Acts; we know that Paul spent a considerable amount of time in Ephesus. Ephesus was one of the major cities during that time. There were probably several hundred thousand living there. I don't know how many hundreds of thousands, but it was a big place. It was right off of the main area of the sea there where they had a big harbor that went up through there.

If you do a little bit of studying, if you went up the little harbor and came to land then they had a real wide thoroughfare that went up to a temple that they had built unto the goddess diana. If you remember reading in the book of Acts, when Paul goes there; on his missionary journey, he spent three years there. We know that they were able to establish a church there. While he was there, as Paul preached the gospel and people began to get saved then they quit worshiping the goddess diana. We know when you read the story that the coppersmiths that were there, those that made little trinkets and those that made little things that people hung around their necks and put in their ears and put on their mantles. These were little images of this goddess diana. They said that this was a god they worshiped. When they started not selling so many of the little gods and goddesses; then they got upset at Paul. We know that they wanted to kill him and he left the city. We know it was a wicked place.

If you read much about the city, it was a very beautiful place. I thought about some of our cities and major cities in America. We have been to a few of them. When you look at some of the places, they are beautiful places. The people that built them, the cities that are there, and the buildings and some of the structures and even in our world

today; they are beautiful places. However, we also know that there is a lot of wickedness. So, it was those many years ago in the city of Ephesus.

Paul was there and the church was established. People began to be saved. As you read the book of Ephesians here, as Paul wrote to the church that was there; it was a book about our calling and the high calling that we have as Christian people. Also, how that God has exalted us, and made us set in heavenly places in Christ Jesus the Bible says. Paul wanted them to understand how blessed they were and how they had been elevated, saved, and born again. They had been raised from all the muck, mire, and the sin that they had lived in. The first three chapters deals with that here.

However, when you get to chapter four, Paul is going to deal with something else. He is not going to be dealing so much with our calling and where God has brought us from and saved us and redeemed us, and all the blessings that are there; but rather it is how that we should live since we have been elevated and since we have been saved, and since we have been born again. Since God has done such great work in our lives then He wants us to understand that there is a way that we must live and God expects us to live since we have been saved. Since the grace of God has elevated us and brought us out of sin, then it will bring us to a place that we are to live in a certain way. We just don't live any way. If we still yet live the same way before we said we got saved, or we made some kind of a confession or what. If we still yet live the same that we did before we made this confession then we really did not get saved because grace changes us. when we believe the gospel, and when we accept the gospel; it changes us and transforms us.

The Bible says here in the book of Ephesians that we become and we are the workmanship of Jesus Christ created unto good works. So that when we are saved, and when we are born again then we are not the same anymore. We are brand-new creatures in Christ. Since that is the case then there are some things that go along with that. There are some things in our living and the way that we live; it completely changes.

Paul wants people here as Ephesus to understand that since they have been saved, since they have been born again, since the grace of God has elevated them, set them in the heavenly place, and their position is exalted in Christ; since that is the case he says, "Hey guys, there is something expected out of us. There is a way that we need to live. There is a standard that we need to live by."

If you ever worked with chemicals and coal and different kinds of metals and things like that; if you are selling these things then you probably have people in quality control that looks at them and tests them and runs samples on them. You have a standard there that your customer wants, whether it is gasoline, coal, or metal. There is a standard there that you have to meet. If you don't meet that standard then it is not really any good for anything.

In our Christian lives, if we are going to live and if we are going to have a life that God is going to bless us, then there is a standard that we have to live by. There are things that we must do. We just can't live in sin. We can't live in rebellion against God. We can't do all those things if we expect God to bless us. If we expect God to use us and to do great things with us then there is a standard that we must live by.

That is what Paul wants these guys wants these guys to understand that there is a standard. There is a way that since we are saved and since we have been born again then there is a way that we will live.

In our world today, we have forgotten about that. We have forgotten about the standard that God expects and God requires if we are going to live a life that is pleasing to Him. Sometimes we think we can just live any way and do anything and God is going to bless us. However, we make shipwreck is what we do. Our lives—we hit the rocks just like a boat that is floating along in the water without a captain. We do fine for a while and it is fun for a while. However, when we forsake the right way then we make shipwreck.

The first thing Paul says here in verse 1...

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

In other words, he is going to tell us who he is. He is telling us he is in prison as he is writing this. I am not really sure exactly when he was in prison on a couple of different occasions. I don't know exactly the year and the time that he is writing this. I don't know which imprisonment it was, but it doesn't really matter. Anyway, he is in prison. I thought about how even though he chained to roman soldiers at this time, even though he is doing that he is concerned about people. He is concerned about how they are going to live and what they are doing. He is concerned about them living in a way that God can bless them and that God can help them. Again, that is commendable. That is what we should be. That is the way we should be.

The next part of this verse he said...

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

First of all, let me back up just one thing. He said "the prisoner of the Lord..." He knows that he is in prison because of his preaching the gospel. You see, the charges that they drummed up against Paul were all made up. As you read the book of Acts, we know that. We know that it was because of hatred, envy, and jealousy that they drummed up all these charges against him. We know that he wasn't guilty. However, Paul knew he was in prison for what he had done for the Lord. He was a prisoner of the Lord.

He says he beseeches us, or he pleads with us; he begs us to do something. He says...

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Paul wanted to remind and tell these people here at Ephesus that there was a way that they needed to walk. When you look at the word walk, and this is really cool. I want you to think about this just for a moment. The word walk describes every part of our life. Our entire life, when Paul uses the word walk here, he is using this word to describe every part of our life. Everywhere that we are at, whether we are work, or whether we are home, whether we are at church, or whether we are...wherever we are at. If we are on vacation, shopping or wherever we are at—Paul is beseeching these people. He is beseeching us, pleading with us and telling us that we need to walk or our manner of life, every part of our life wherever we are at—every part of our life we should walk worthy.

The word worthy is also a good word. It is a word that constitutes with a Christian exalted position. It goes along...it is consistent with that. It is consistent with our position here, but it is talking, not only that but in every place of life, every area of life, every place we go, everything that we do, there is a certain standard, a certain way that we should live. Since—get this—since that we are saved, since that we have been born again; then there is a way that God expects us to live. Every place that we go, every part of life is important whether...it does not matter when someone is around, not around, on the job, wherever we are at; it is important that we walk in a way that our life and our walk will reflect that we are children of Almighty God.

What that is so important is this. We live in a world that is dark. We live in a world that is full of sin. We live in a world that doesn't know anything about Christ. Now you talk to a lot of people and they will tell you they know who God is and they believe in God.

I was trying to talk to someone the other day. The person is a good person. I like them. You can't be around them because of the language they use, and all the things they are involved in you can't spend time with them or be around them. However, as I was talking to them they were telling me how much they believed in God and how that they knew there was a God in heaven. I was trying to tell them hey you need to get saved and be born again. You can't live in sin. You can't live like that and expect to go to heaven. However, they don't want to hear that. Do you know what that does not do? That does not reflect the life of Christ. That does not reflect the exalted position that an individual has that has been born again. That lifestyle, cursing and drinking and carousing and doing all that they were doing—that kind of a lifestyle does not reflect the Son of Almighty God. Does everybody get that?

In my family and in your family, there are people that says that is okay. I believe in God. I believe in God. Do you know what? The devils also believe. They believe and they tremble. It takes more than just believing with head knowledge. When we are saved, when we are born-again, then our lives are changed. Our walk is different. When you go to work, do you know what? Your life, your speech and what you do will be different.

People that you work with; do you know what they will see? They will see something different about you. Since that is the case then our walk should be different. How that we live will be different. The reason again, that Paul is using the term here walk—it is a process.

I was trying to talk to someone just a couple of days ago. A young fellow. I know he has a long way to go, as we all have a long way to go. We have a long way to mature. As I spoke to him, I said, young man, you are very spiritually immature. You don't know what you are doing here. How I know that you are spiritually immature; I have been doing this for 40 years and you have been on this way 2 or 3 years. I know that you are spiritually immature.

The thing is in life, since we have been saved, since we have an exalted position, since we have been born again; we have a different walk. Everywhere that we go we should walk in a way that what we are doing, our manner of speech, our habits and all we do should reflect that we have been born again. Does everybody get that? You should agree with that. If you don't agree with that then we have missed something along the way.

This is saying that when we get saved, we started as babes and we are immature. I have been in this a long time and I am still yet immature. There are many things in life that is way beyond me. There are many things in this Bible that are way beyond me and it is beyond you and all of us. When we get to thinking that we know it all and we have it all figured out and nobody can tell us anything. We are going to teach everybody the right way and nobody knows nothing but us. Do you know what we are getting ready to do? We are getting ready to get on our nose. We are getting ready fall on our face because we don't know it all. It is a process. When we get saved, we learn. We begin to learn. Our manner of life and where we walk and where we go must reflect that we are children of Almighty God.

He says here to walk worthy. The word worthy, again, it is a great word. Since we have this exalted position in the body of Christ then there is certain way that we should live and we must live that way. Every place, in every part of our life, everything about us; we should reflect and we should have the spirit of Christ in us in everything that we do.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Again, our manner of life, our vocation, where we are at in life. God has called us. God has saved us. He is beseeching us to live in a certain way. It says here some things that we want to talk about.

Here is what I really wanted to talk about this evening. How that we should walk. Since we are saved, since we have been born again, since that we are in an exalted position that we have and we have been. God has lifted us up out of the sins of this life and has exalted us and he set us in the heavenly; therefore, we have been exalted. If you have

been saved then you have been exalted. Amen! That is okay. You should agree with that. If we don't know where we are at then we don't where we came from. If we know where we are at and we know where we came from then we will realize what God has done for us. We will realize that there is a way that we need to walk. Since that is the case he is going to tell us some things here. He is going to tell us how that we need to walk. How our manner of life should be. How that we should conduct ourselves every moment of every day, every place that we go and everything that we do.

It is easy to be churchy around church. It is easy—husbands and wives can fight like cats and dogs. They beat the kids. They can scream and holler at one another coming down the road but just as soon as they hit the parking lot, they smile and everything is just fine. They walk in church holding hands and grinning at one another and sit down beside one another. Then when they leave and hit the road again, it is the same thing. Anybody can be churchy in church. Anybody can act spiritual in church. Amen! Anybody can put on a good front in church, but how do we live when we are not here? How do we live when we go down the road? Our kids—I'm talking about mine and yours too—could write a book about us because they know who we are. Amen! You may not want to admit that but our kids know who we are. That's okay. There is nothing wrong with that. Truth! I didn't say your kids know bad things about you. I said our kids know who we are. Your mind was running, hey, they are going to tell something bad. I wasn't saying that but you were thinking that though. Amen!

How that we need to live, our walk, how that we should live, and what we should do, and how we should conduct ourselves wherever we are at in life.

Listen. I say this a lot. I don't know if I said it 50 times a day to all of us; I don't think I would be over stating what I am going to say here. There are people who need our help. There are people who are waiting on somebody just like you or me to talk to them and tell them there is hope for you. There is hope for you. Don't give up hope. Don't throw in the towel. Don't do that. There is hope there. There are people that God puts in your space and your area and God puts people in my area. They are there. We need to let them know and we need to live in a way that they can see that these people are living on a different level than we are living on. These people are favored. These people have got the blessing of God upon their life. We need to live that way. Everywhere that we are at, just not in church; but at work, at home, and at the grocery store. I know sometimes at Walmart it can get really tough.

This upsets me really bad. I don't know why it does but I'm in line at Walmart and this person behind me is running into my chins all the time, that upsets me. It may not upset you, but it upsets me. Do you know what I have to do sometimes? Sometimes I have to just get a hold of their buggy for them. Help them out a little bit. Keep them from running into me.

What I am saying is that everywhere we are at we must live in a way that we reflect and we let people see that there is a spirit that is living in us. The spirit of Almighty God is living in us.

The first thing he says here on how that we should live since we have been exalted, since we have been exalted and put on this higher plane since God has saved us and born us into His family. He uses the word here that we need to walk in the lowliness. This is something, this is genuine humility. This is something that is genuine. Humility that comes from association with the Lord. There is a way that we can live that we are humble people because of our association with Jesus Christ.

The people who runs into me with a buggy before I got saved—I probably would not have been nice as I am now. Do you know why? Because I really did not care what they thought. However, now when people do what they do and they do that there is a way that we can live since we are acquainted and associated with the God of heaven then we can show humility. We can be humble people. Do you know what we don't always have to do? We don't always have to run our mouth. Since we are associated with Jesus Christ, we don't always do that. Amen! We don't have to do that at all. We can humble people. We can walk in lowliness. We can live in a way that people can see us.

Get this. Lowliness makes us conscious of our own nothingness.

As I read today and thought about that word lowly and humble. Lowliness will produce in us and make us conscious that we are absolutely nothing. The word lowly is just the opposite of being proud. When I am humble, when I am lowly, when I am walking—my manner of life, in every area of my life—I'm walking in lowliness. I'm walking in that because I have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Not only that but also, I know that I am absolutely nothing. You take God out of our lives and we are nothing. You take His presence out of our lives and we are nothing. The only reason we have been exalted tonight is because He moved in here. If we take Him out of our lives then we are absolutely nothing. We realize that when we walk in lowliness. Not only that but it enables us to esteem others better than ourselves. When we are humble people, when we are walking in a spirit of humility, when we are walking in that way then that lets us see who we are. That lets us understand that we are no better than anybody else. We don't put ourselves above anybody else.

It is amazing that this is the first thing that he mentions here when you think about it. He wants us to understand that if we are going to walk a life that is worthy of our calling then we are going to have to be humble people. We can't walk around in pride. We can't walk around and living in a way that we exalt ourselves above other people. We will walk in a way that we are conscious that we are nothing. We will walk in a way that we understand that we have been around Christ, and we will walk in humility because we have an association with Christ. Amen! It will let us understand that we are not any better than anybody else.

Again, the word lowly is the opposite of proud. People are not conceded that are walking in lowliness. They are not conceded at all.

The second thing is that we should walk in and that we will walk in if we are genuine believers and if we are actually and have an association with Jesus Christ... The second thing is this:

Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

We will walk in meekness. The word meekness means gentleness. It brings out the idea that we will have an attitude that submits to God's dealings and whatever they are. If we are walking in meekness, when God deals with something in my life then I will deal with that in a way—I will accept what God does in my life. God does things in our life that we may not like. God separates us from things sometimes that we may not like, things that we do not need in life, God cuts those things off in our life sometimes. Things that we don't need. We call that sanctification. We know that is what it is. Do you know what? When God does those things, I'll have the right attitude, I'll submit to His dealing with me without rebelling against Him.

God speaks to us sometimes and do you know what we do? God, I don't want to do that. Lord I know that you want me to do this particular thing or do that particular thing or you don't want me to do this. You want me to stop doing this and we don't like that so we rebel against God. However, if I am walking in meekness then however God deals with me, in whatever situation it is I will not rebel against God. That is a big deal. Do you know why that is a big deal? Because we see a lot of people doing that today. Rebelling against Almighty God. God speaks and God says this is what you need to do and this is what you don't need to do then instead of receiving that in the right way and accepting what God has said and doing what God has said and don't do what God has told us not to do; we rebel against that. I want to live my own way. I want to do my own thing. I don't like that situation. We rebel against Almighty God. When we do that we are not walking in gentleness. We are not walking in meekness, if we rebel against Almighty God.

Not only that but also, if we are meek people and we are walking in meekness; our life, our manner of life, everywhere we go we are meek people; do you know what we won't do? The people that does us wrong and does us wrong continually over and over... Do you know what we won't do? We won't have a spirit of retaliation in us. We won't want to get back at people like that. If we are walking in the right way, we will understand that we have been born again, we have an association with Christ. We know who He is. We are on our way to heaven and we will walk in meekness and gentleness. Again, we will not retaliate against people who does us wrong.

Listen. If you go down that road, you are going to get back at everybody that gets you, and everybody that does something wrong against you. Do you know what you are going to do? That is all you are going to do in life. Everyone of us sitting here tonight,

and everybody listening to me tonight; we have people who does us wrong. We have people that talks about us. We have people that runs us down. We have people that does not like what we do so therefore, they just talk and run their mouth. If we chase all that every day and sometimes we have to when people are getting hurt and when people are getting killed and things like that but sometimes we have to. However, if that is all that we do then we are miserable people. People are going to do what they are going to do. When we walk in the spirit of meekness, when we walk in the spirit of gentleness; do you know what we do? We understand who is behind those things. Satan is behind that. When people are trying to tear you down and you know you are saved and born again. I'm not talking about you just living a half-hazard life. However, you know that you are a child of God and people are trying to tear you down. Do you know what? We know that comes from satan. We know that is the spirit of satan working through people and in people. He is very real today. He works in people that goes to church every day. He does that.

The next thing here that we need to walk in is that we need to walk in longsuffering. Longsuffering is a good word. It is having a spirit about us where we can live in patience and we can be patient with people. Even under prolong persecution we can still yet be very longsuffering with people. I know the scripture says surely oppression will make a wise man mad. We understand you continue to press even someone day after day, week after week, month after month; then there are going to be some repercussions there. However, when we are walking worthy, when we are walking in the way that we should be walking since we have an association with Jesus Christ, then we are going to be people that are longsuffering. We are going to be people that are patient. We are going to have a patient spirit about us. We are not going to be on edge all the time. We are not going to be always trying to rush ahead of God and getting ahead of God. We want this done and we want it done now. We won't be doing that if we are walking in the spirit of longsuffering.

The next thing he says here in verse three, he mentions something else I want to talk about.

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The word endeavoring means to be diligent. It means that we should be very diligent here in what we are doing. Working to do our very best, working in a way that we are making hast—what I mean by that is—we should be rushing, we should be very enthusiastic about endeavoring to keep people in unity. That is something we should work at. That is something we should work on. Paul is saying here that is something that is very important in our life. Unity is something that we need. Because if we have been saved, then we have been saved by the same God. We are going to talk about that in a minute. If we have been saved, we belong to the same body. Amen! It doesn't matter what we call ourselves, but if we have been saved, we belong to the same body. Does everybody get that? That is the way it is. We should work at that.

Since we are children of God, we are children of God and we have been saved the same way then there is a unity that we need. We are all part of the same family.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago in church...you did not look at the name over the door. When we first got saved many many, years ago; we went to all kinds of different places. People went to church back then. They went to church more than just on Sundays and Wednesday but they went to church. If the Holiness church down the road was having a revival; do you know what the Baptist people would do? They would go down there and they would support them and they would worship with them. The Baptists would have a revival and the Holiness would come and the Pentecostal people would come and the Nazarenes would come. Do you know why? Because then we understood that we were all part of the same body. We were all part of the same body. We were serving the same God. We all had been saved by the same God. We were all going to the same place, however, somewhere in the last twenty or thirty years that has all changed. Instead of our denominations now just being a denomination and a place that we have Baptist on the door, it has become a place of separation. It has become a place of competition with different churches. We don't want to cooperate with the Nazarenes, Baptists, Holy Rollers, Pentecostals or whoever; we don't want to cooperate with them. We think they are somebody different then we are.

Listen. If they are saved and genuine people and if we are saved and genuine people then we are going to the same place. We have the same Father. Amen! We are indwelled by the same spirit. Amen!

I don't know what has happened. I don't know where along the line...that happens so easily too. However, it wasn't just a bit chop off and we stopped doing all of that but it happened gradually. The enemy is a lot smarter than we think he is. He is a lot smarter and lot more cunning than we think he is. Sometimes we think we know and see but we really don't see. In the last twenty or thirty years, the denominations have been more of a competition than they have been understanding that we are all part of the same family of Almighty God. That shouldn't be folks.

When we get to heaven, there is not going to be a Jewish church over here. Amen! A Japanese church over here and the Greeks over there and the Romans over here and the Americans here—that is not going to happen. All saved people are going to be going there. Amen! We need to understand that. Unity among the believers of Christ is something that is important. We have something in common. We don't have anything in common with the world. We don't have anything in common with the world at all. We do have things that are common and in common with people that are saved. We need unity and we need to be at peace one with another. When we understand who we are and understand that we are all part of the same body of Christ then that is not a hard thing to do. There won't be any competition between Baptists and Nazarene and Presbyterians and Catholics; there won't be any competition there. People will be going the same direction worshiping the same God, having the same goal in mind and that is teaching people about Jesus Christ. We need to work at that.

That is something that we need to work at. That is something that Campbell Chapel needs to work at. You are not any better than I am and I am not any better than you are. Amen! If we are genuinely saved, we have been saved by the same God. Amen! If we are going to heaven—get this—not only are we going to the same place but we are going at the same time. We are going in the rapture. You may die 50 years, or I may die 50 years before you do but we are all going to heaven at the same time. That is something to think about. Isn't it? that is true. That is scripture. That is the Bible. Unity is something that is very important. **Unity in a family** among husbands, wives and children is something that is very important.

The word endeavor means to work at it. We need to work at it. We need to show some enthusiasm and work about it.

The next thing here we want to talk about is this. There are some very basic reasons, some very basic thing why we walk worthy, some things that are very simple in why we walk worthy and that we walk in unity with Christian people. We walk in unity with genuine born-again Christian people. There are some reasons for that. The first thing here that I look at here in verse 4...

Ephesians 4:4 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

He says there is one body. I just talked about that. There is only one body. Since there is only one body of Christ then we should walk in unity. Does everybody get that? There is only one body. There are many churches but genuine people make up one body. Not everybody that sits in church is saved. Not everybody that sits in this church or the church down the road, or the church over the hill, or whatever—I don't know who is saved and who is not. I do know one thing. We all genuine born-again people make up the body of Christ. There is only one body. There is only one church of Jesus Christ. Remember that. Since that is the case that we should walk worthy of our calling and we should strive to live in peace and unity as God's people; but not only that there is only one Spirit.

Get that. It is capital letter so that means there is only one Holy Spirit. There are many spirits going out in the world. There are many voices out in the world. We hear many voices in our head. Amen! However, there is only one Spirit of God. If you are genuinely saved and born again—get this—the day, the moment, the instant you were saved; He moved in here. The instant that you were saved, that you were born again; the Holy Ghost moved into your life. You were baptized by His Spirit. All of us were. We were brought into the body of Christ the same way. You did not get saved a different way than I did. You may have got saved on a different night. You might have got saved in the summertime, instead of the wintertime. You may have got saved in the hospital room, or you may not have been in a church; however, when you were saved and if you have been genuinely saved, we were all saved the same way. There is no difference in us. Some people may have got emotional. Some people may not have.

Some may have cried. Some people may have shouted. I understand that. However, the work that was done in your heart and all of our lives was done the same way. We asked God to forgive us and save us. He did that. He came in. He moved in our hearts. He threw the devil, He threw the strong man that was in our heart out and He came and sat down on the throne of our heart. That happened to everyone of us.

I want to say this while we are here. Sometimes in life, and we don't all experience as much as his presence as we like, but that does not mean that He is not there if we are genuine and saved. However, as you grow, as He cuts some things off in your life; as you spend some time in prayer, reading your Bible, being faithful to Him, asking Him to forgive you and cleanse you—I don't care if you have been saved 50 years you need to do that every day. Do you know what you can understand? You can get closer and you can understand that His Spirit and His presence will be more active in your life. You will get acquainted with His voice as He speaks. There is only one Holy Ghost guys. There is not one in the Baptist church and one in the Methodist and one in the Catholic and one in this church and that church—there is only one Holy Ghost. One. Only One. Since that is the case, there is only one body. There is only one Spirit of Almighty God. Since that is the case, do you know what that should do? That should promote unity. That should promote unity. That is what this thing is all about. The same Spirit dwells in everybody.

Not only that—get this—the next he says here...

Ephesians 4:4 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

There is only one hope. If you are genuinely born again tonight, there is only one hope that you have. There is only one. Our hope that he is talking about that a genuine Christian has; our hope is in the resurrection when He comes to call us home. It is in our redemption, being redeemed from this life and taken to heaven. That is what our hope is. Our hope is in Jesus Christ. We know that because He lives, we are alive. We understand that. But our hope is not in this world. Our hope is not here. The hope we have is being able to leave this earth and one day be able to live with Him in heaven forever. That is where our hope is at. If you don't have that hope, then you don't know what I am talking about. If that is not what you are looking forward to then you have no idea what I am talking about. Many people go to church but they have no hope. They have given up. They don't have any hope. They don't know what it is to have hope.

Listen. Our world needs hope. If people had hope and we could convince people that there is hope for them and there is a place for them do you know what we could see? We could see a whole lot more people being a lot happier than what they are today. There is only one hope.

There is not going to be just a place for you and you...that is not going to happen. You are not going to live here on earth forever. That is not where your hope is at. Your hope is in heaven. That is where your hope is at. Amen! Since that is the case and

that is all the hope; that is the hope of all genuine born-again Christians, all true Christians—I'm not talking about church members. I'm talking about people that are born again, that is the hope that we have. Not only that but get this.

He goes on to say...

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

There is One Lord. There is only One Jesus. That is what he is saying. There is only One. Since there is only One Jesus, do you know what that should do in all of our lives among all people that are genuinely born again, that should promote unity. Truth! We have something in common. If we are genuinely born again, we serve the same Lord, because there is only One. There is only One Jesus that died on a cross. There is only One Jesus that has got up from the dead. There is only One Jesus that created the heavens and the earth. Only One of Him. Not a dozen of Him. You don't have one in your pocket. You don't carry him around your neck. You don't have him in your ears. There is One. In every genuine born-again Christian knows who this One Lord is. Does everybody get that?

There is only one faith. Again, the reason Paul is saying all this stuff is that he is trying to promote unity among the church here at Ephesus. They had it for a while. They had unity for a while. Things went great for a while. However, it did not take long that they cooled off and we know the story. We are not going to get into that tonight. We don't have time.

Faith that leads us into the presence of Almighty God. A faith that is founded in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is only one way. There is only one faith that will ever bring you into the presence of Almighty God and that is having faith in Jesus Christ. You do not approach the God of heaven on your own. We have an advocate. We have a mediator. Amen! We take our petitions by faith unto Jesus Christ. Then He takes our petitions unto the throne. That is the Bible. There is only one faith. There is only one type of faith that does that. That is when we put faith in Jesus Christ.

I can put faith in the church. I can put faith in this and that. I can put faith in education and all kinds of stuff. However, that kind of faith will never get me into the presence of Almighty God.

One faith. Faith that I believe and know that Jesus Christ is Lord. I know who He is. He changed my life. Since He changed my life, and I have been around Him and I am associated with Him, then I know that I'm brought into God's presence by one faith and that is putting faith in Jesus Christ.

He says one baptism. Get that. One baptism. We are baptized today, people are baptized today to make a confession to the world that we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. That is why we are baptized. It is an open profession to the world. We take you and put you in water and we put you completely under the water. You have died out to sin and we bring you up out of the water and you have been resurrected

unto a new life. Amen! We baptize people that are saved. There is only one baptism. There is only one. There is not a dozen. There is not ten dozen. There is one. Again, this happens, and it happens to all genuine born-again children of God; we are baptized. We want this world to know that I am a brand-new creature. I have accepted Jesus Christ. My life has changed. I have died out to sin and now I am being raised in the newness of life. Only one faith.

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

One God and Father of all. Get that. There is only one God. There is only One God. There is One Spirit. There is One Son. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit; there is only one God the Father.

We live in a world where there are over 1,000 religions; but there is only One God and Father. He is the only One. Do you know what He is? He is the Father of all. Get that. He is the Father of all those that are genuinely born again. I know that everybody wants to claim that God is their Father. But the only way you can claim God as your Father is by being born into His family. You are the creation of God. Mankind is the creation of God but God is not their Father. Amen! You are born into God's family and God becomes your Father because you are born again.

He says here...

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

He is above everybody. There is nobody greater than our God. Nothing, nobody any greater than what God is. He is through all, in us all. He is in us all and the Bible says here...

Ephesians 4:6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

This is what and who we are as genuine born-again people of God. This will be how that we will walk. This will be our manner of life if we are genuinely, truly born again by Almighty God. This is how that we will live. This is what will go on in our life. We won't be living in sin. No, we won't live that way. People that has had their life changed, they won't be living in sin. Amen! People that are associated with Jesus Christ won't be living in sin.

Since that all is the case, since He wants us to live in humility and all these other things I said; that promotes unity. The reason that promotes unity is because we are a part of the same family. If you are a part of the family of Almighty God, if you have been born again; then do you know what we are? We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all part of the same family and we are going to the same place if we are saved.

Come and pray—