

## EPHESIANS: PRECISION THINKING FOR ACCURATE THEOLOGY

### SESSION 14 | EPHESIANS 4:1-7

#### THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR A WORTHY WALK | EPHESIANS 4:1-3

- Verse 1 –
  - The word **beseech** is the familiar Greek word παρακαλέω [parakaleo], often used of the Holy Spirit. It means *to come alongside with a call*.
  - The word **worthy** is ἀξιῶς [axios] from which we get *axiom* and *axiomatic*. An axiom is a *self-evident truth*, and our walk is to be *axiomatic*, that is, *of the nature of self-evident truth*.
  - The word **vocation** is from the root καλεω [kaleo], thus a *calling*. Thus, this root is used three times in verse 1, in **beseech**, **vocation**, and **called**. While the modern sense of a **vocation** is a career, the fuller sense is *a calling*. Notice the *vocal* root of the word.
- Verses 2-3 –
  - The instructions of verses 2-3 are Paul's expansion of the instruction to **walk worthy**. To do so, our walk must be:
    - **with all lowliness** - that is a *humble thought process*.
    - **and meekness** - that is, a *gentle spirit* in all that we do.
    - **with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love** - our Christian lives should lead us to have a *long fuse* before our anger bursts, and an endurance of others based on **love**.
    - **endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit** - we should have a *diligent labor* that works toward unity. Our spirit should be, "how can I bring us together in the Spirit **in the bond of peace?**"

#### THE UNITY OF OUR BOND | EPHESIANS 4:4-6

The **bond of peace** (v. 3) is possible because of the *oneness* of who we are.

- **There is one body** - This **body** is *not* the church, as so many surmise. Rather, it is the *body of Christ* in heaven, into which we enter as believers. Compare Ephesians 2:16 in which **one body** is the physical body of Christ. See also Ephesians 5:30 and 1 Corinthians 12:13. (Note: If the *church* is the *body of Christ*, then either the entire church must be united together in one body or the local church is the body and there is not just one).
  - There is a Biblical pattern of a *shadow* of the true thing on earth:
    - The tabernacle: Hebrews 8:5
    - The Holy Place: Hebrews 9:24
    - The Sacrifices: Hebrews 10:1
    - The elements of the Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:26-28
    - Jerusalem: Hebrews 12:22
  - If there is a Biblical pattern for the *reality* in heaven and the *shadow* on earth, then why not with the *Body*? The **one body** is in Heaven and the local church is the *shadow* of that body.

- **one Spirit** - compare Ephesians 2:18, 22
- **one hope of your calling** - This **hope** is the singular future to which we look forward to as those who have accepted the invitation to receive salvation in Christ.
- **one Lord** - Our head, Jesus Christ.
- **one faith** - There is a **faith which was once delivered** (Jude 1:3) in which we have entered. The "Christian faith" is a singular faith, even when the *doctrines of the Christian church* are many and varied.
- **one baptism** - rather than water baptism (which are many), this is the baptism into the **one body** (see 1 Cor. 12:13).
- **one God and Father** - our **bond of peace** (v. 3) is impossible if we are not agreed on the identity and nature of God, who is
  - **above all** - literally "over" all, the One with both the perspective and the power we need.
  - **through all** - that is, He is *thoroughly everywhere*.
  - and **in you all** - God is in us and we are in Him through faith.

#### THE GRACE GIVEN TO FOR THE UNITY OF OUR FAITH | EPHESIANS 4:7-16

- Verse 7 –
  - Each one of us has the same measure of grace.
    - Grace is given **according to the measure of the gift of Christ**.
    - This **gift of Christ** is an endless fountain. Compare Romans 12:3.
  - Note that here the emphasis is on **every** while in v. 13 the emphasis is on **some**.
- Verses 8-10 – *to be continued!*