



Rice Memorial MBC

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Faith to Unite

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **December 31, 2017**

Worship with us at 3201 Mary St until we rebuild our sanctuary at 15th & State.
...We're located just behind Kaufman's Lumber Company in Little Rock Arkansas...

Ephesians 4:1-16

Introduction: We enter now on the latter part of it, in which we have the **most weighty** and **serious exhortations** that can be given. We may observe that in this, as in most others of Paul's epistles, the former part is **doctrinal**, and fitted to **INFORM** the **minds** of men in the great **TRUTHS** and **DOCTRINES** of the gospel, the latter is practical, and designed for the **direction** of their lives and manners, all Christians being bound to endeavour (strive to reach) after **soundness** in the **faith**, and **regularity in life** and **practice**.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/ephesians-4.html>)

Ephesians 4:1-2, I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **walk (LIVE)** worthy of the **vocation (calling)** wherewith ye are **called**, With all **lowliness (humbleness of mind)** and **meeekness (gentleness)**, with **LONGSUFFERING, forbearing (put up with one another in LOVE...**

Longsuffering defined 3116, longanimity (disposition [frame of MIND] to endure long under offenses).

NOTE: We are to patiently "put up" with one another in spite of differences and our individual idiosyncrasies. These qualities will go a long way in maintaining **UNITY** among believers. (Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series*)

Ephesians 4:3, Endeavouring (make effort, **labour, study**) to **keep** the **unity (oneness)** of the Spirit in the **BOND (joint tie, i.e. ligament, (figuratively) uniting principle)** of peace.

NOTE: There can be no doubt that the Church at Ephesus was composed partly of converted Jews, as well as Gentiles. Now, from the different manner in which they had been brought up, there might be frequent causes of altercation. Indeed, the Jews, though converted, might be envious that the Gentiles were admitted to the same glorious privileges with themselves, without being initiated into them by bearing the yoke and burden of the Mosaic law. The apostle guards them against this, and shows them that they should **intensely LABOR** (for so the word σπουδαζειν implies) to **PROMOTE** and **PRESERVE** **peace** and **unity**. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/ephesians-4.html>)

Ephesians 4:4-5, There IS **ONE body**, and **ONE Spirit**, even as ye are called in **ONE hope** of your calling; **One LORD...**

Lord defined 2962. **kurios** pronounced *koo'-ree-os* from **kuros** (supremacy); **supreme in authority**, i.e. (as noun) **controller**; by implication, **Master** (as a respectful title): - **God**, **LORD** [one who has power and authority; a **RULER**; a governor], **master**, **Sir**.

Thought 1. At first glance, it would seem the “supreme in authority” is the correct choice among the meanings offered. Up until about a year ago, I believed this is what was intended. As we know, Yahweh, the Father is the “supreme in authority.” However, when we consider other scriptures, especially Ephesians 4:6, where he addresses the Father, we see “LORD” is actually speaking of Jesus as “RULER.”

1 Corinthians 8:6, But to us there is but **one God** (supreme (Highest in authority) **Divinity** (state of being divine; Deity)), **the Father**, of whom are all things, and we in him; and **ONE Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Corinthians 15:24-27, Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he (Jesus) must reign (RULE), till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The nemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he (*God the Father*) hath put ALL things under his (*Jesus*) feet. But when he saith, ALL things are put under him, it is **manifest (clear)** that **He (Father)** is **EXCEPTED**, which did put ALL things under him (*Jesus*).

Ephesians 4:5, ...**ONE faith**, **ONE baptism** (great sanctification [act of making holy {PURE: CLEAN in heart}])...

Thought 1. Some Christians believe that “WATER baptism” is the “ONE baptism.” But, from this verse PLUS what Jesus said, the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the “ONE.”

Acts 1:5, And (*Jesus*), being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should NOT depart from Jerusalem, but **WAIT** for the **promise** of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly **baptized** with **WATER**; but ye shall be **baptized** with the **HOLY GHOST** NOT many days hence.

Titus 3:4-5, But after that the kindness and LOVE of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he **SAVED us**, by the **WASHING** of **regeneration (SPIRITUAL rebirth)**, and **renewing** (making new again; reviving [restoring to LIFE]) of the Holy Ghost...

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

God defined 2316, the **supreme** (Highest in authority) **Divinity** (state of being divine; Deity).

Thought 1. From this scripture, we see that even though Jesus is “God the Son”, he is NOT the Highest Authority. Our Father, (Yahweh) is the ONE God (Highest Divinity) and Father of all, who is ABOVE all, and through all, and IN you all.

John 20:17, Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am NOT yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto **my Father**, and your Father; and to **MY God**, and your God.

Ephesians 4:7-8, But, unto **every one** of us is given **grace (gift)** according to the **measure** of the GIFT of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave **gifts** unto men.

NOTE: The words in Ephesians 4:8 come from Psalm 68:18. That Psalm speaks much about military might and victory. A military leader who returns from battle as a victor has the right and privilege of granting gifts to those who were a part of his army or to those waiting at home. In this case, Jesus Christ is portrayed as the Victor ascending into the presence of God, leading those **once captive to sin** into **spiritual delivery** and **victory**. These are the recipients of the spiritual gifts. (Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator*, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series)

Psalm 68:18, Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast **led captivity captive**: thou hast received **gifts for men**; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

Ephesians 4:9-14, (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended **FIRST** into the lower parts of the earth? **He** that descended is the **same also** that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might **fill (make replete [completely filled])** all things.) And he gave some, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers; for the **perfecting (complete furnishing)** of the **saints**, for the **work** of the **ministry**, for the **EDIFYING** (building up in Christian knowledge; improving the **MIND**) of the body of Christ: till we all come in the **UNITY** of the **faith**, and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, **UNTO** a **perfect (of full [mature] age) man**, unto the measure of the **stature (maturity)** of the **fullness (perfection)** of Christ that we henceforth be no more **children (immature Christian, BABE)**...

Thought 1. Christians GROW to maturity by first DESIRING God's pure word. As this verse says, the goal is to grow to the "maturity" of Christ. It takes time, but can be done.

1 Peter 2:2, As **newborn babes**, **DESIRE** the **sincere (unadulterated: PURE, unmixed)** MILK of the **WORD**, that ye may **GROW** thereby...

Hebrews 5:12-14, For when for the TIME ye ought to be **teachers**, ye have need that one teach you again which be the **first principles** of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of MILK, and NOT of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is **unskilful** in the word of righteousness: for he is a **BABE**. But **strong (solid) meat (nourishment)** belongeth to them that are **of full age (MATURE)**, even those who by reason of USE have their **senses** exercised to discern both good and evil.

Philippians 3:15, Let us therefore, as many as be **perfect (of full age)**, be thus minded: and IF in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Thought 2. The Greek word for "**perfect**", (**teleios**), in Ephesians 4:13, is the same Greek word used Hebrews 5:14, and in Philippians 3:15.

Ephesians 4:14-16... **tossed** to and fro, and carried about with every **wind** of **DOCTRINE**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby **they lie in wait to deceive**; but **speaking the TRUTH** in LOVE, may **GROW UP** into him in all things, which is the **head**, even Christ; From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which **EVERY JOINT** supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of **EVERY PART**, **maketh increase** of the **BODY** unto the **edifying** (building up in Christian knowledge; improving the **MIND**) of itself **in LOVE**.

NOTE: One of the marks of spiritual maturity is the **ability** to speak the truth in LOVE. Some preachers tend to BROWBEAT their parishioners. (Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator*, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series)