

Digging Deeper: Ephesians 4:1–3 (Unity in the Body of Christ)

Unity/Fellowship

Written by Robert Lee (Elder at MACC)

Day 1

Pray. Consider again where Paul was situated and the conditions he faced around the time he was ministering to the church at Ephesus. Read Acts 18:18–21; 19:–41. Pay special attention to what Demetrius did (Acts 19:23–41) as well as the significance of Artemis, Greco-Roman goddess.

Day 2

Pray. Read Ephesians 4:1. Identify the exhortation in this passage and consider what Paul had been teaching all along, in particular reference to God bringing Jews and Gentiles into this “new” relationship within the church. What responsibility does God place on the church today regarding relationships?

Day 3

Pray. Read Ephesians 4:2. What does it really mean to be *humble*, *gentle*, *patient*, and bearing with one another in *love*? Is the church of our time reflecting these characteristics as part of its “moral compass?” Also, read Galatians 5:22–26 and include the church in your prayers if any one of these *fruitful* characteristics is absent.

Day 4

Pray. Read Ephesians 4:3. What type of effort does this passage recommend for keeping the unity of the Spirit? Is this not the same amount of effort that God provides toward us?

Day 5

Pray. Read Ephesians 4:3. *Bond* is a strong word used to describe something that is being *fused* with another. The Greek translation for “bond” refers to a belt. The image that this passage projects is the Body of Christ being wrapped around us with the belt of peace. *Peace* is a theme in which Paul repeats multiple times in this letter (Eph 1:2; 2:14, 15, 17; 6:15, 23). Who is your peace today? If it is someone or something other than Jesus, please pray again now and ask God for his perfect peace.

Day 6

Pray. Reread Ephesians 4:1–3. God produced unity through the reconciling death of Christ (Eph 2:14–22). It is the heavy responsibility of Christians and the church from keeping that unity from being disturbed. Be encouraged to keep the unity by approaching life’s challenges with the bond of peace. If you’re in need of courage and strength in this area, fall on your knees and pray. Rest assured that you are not alone.