

Ephesians 4:1-16

Extra Questions and Commentaries

"Humility" (4:2)

- Using two different colors or markings, note what is associated with pride and what is associated with humility.
 - Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling. NAS
 - Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom. NASU
 - Danial 5:20 But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, NIV
 - Obadiah 3 The pride of your heart has deceived you, NIV
 - Psalm 10:4 In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. NIV
 - Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor. NIV
 - James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." NIV
 - James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. NIV
 - Psalm 25:9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. NIV

FYI: Humility: "A freedom from arrogance that grows out of the recognition that all we have and are comes from God. The Greek philosophers despised humility because it implied inadequacy, lack of dignity, and worthlessness to them. This is not the meaning of humility as defined by the Bible. Jesus is the supreme example of humility (Matt 11:29; Mark 10:45; John 13:4-17; Phil 2:5-8), and He is completely adequate and of infinite dignity and worth. Biblical humility is not a belittling of oneself (Matt 6:16-18; Rom 12:3), but an exalting or praising of others, especially God and Christ (John 3:30; Phil 2:3). A humble person, then, focuses more on God and others than on himself.

Biblical humility is also a recognition that by ourselves we are inadequate, without dignity and worthless. Yet, because we are created in God's image and because believers are in Christ, we have infinite worth and dignity (1 Cor 4:6-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19). True humility does not produce pride but gratitude."

- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

"Gentleness/patience" (4:2)

- Why is God patient with us? 2 Peter 3:9
 - Why was God patient with Paul? 1 Timothy 1:16

- What do the following say dealing with sinful behavior?
 - Galatians 6:1
 - 2 Timothy 2:24-26

"Tolerance" (4:2)

- What does 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 add to the understanding of tolerance/bearing with one another?

"It's quiet. It's early. For the next 12 hours I'll be exposed to the day's demands. It's now that I must make a choice. And so I choose—love. I will love God and what God loves. I choose joy. I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance...I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God. I choose peace. I will live forgiven. I choose patience—Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I'll thank God for a moment to pray. I choose kindness—for that's how God has treated me. I choose goodness. I choose faithfulness. Today I'll keep my promises. My wife will not question my love. I choose gentleness. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself. I choose self-control. I will be impassioned only by my faith and influenced only by God. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When this day is done, I'll place my head on my pillow and rest."

- Max Lucado from When God Whispers Your Name
<https://maxlucado.com/audio/daily-audio/i-choose/>

"One body" (4:4)

- Make a list of what you learn about the one body from Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:16; 3:6; 4:4, 12, 16; 5:23, 30.

FYI: "There is one body," which Ephesians teaches is eternal in calling, heavenly in conception, divine in creation, and supernatural in constitution. The living members of this Body have been called out of every kindred, tongue, people and nation. They differ in nationality, color, language, education, training, ability, temperament, and outlook. Through the human blood running in their veins they have inherited dislikes, prejudices and animosities that separate them as far as the east is from the west. But through the blood of the Savior and the baptism of the Spirit they are united to Christ as living members of His Body." - preceptaustin.org

"One hope" (4:4)

- From Ephesians 1 and 2, what kind of hope has Paul described? See for example 1:3-5; 10-12; 18-23; 2:5-7, 22; 3:16-21

FYI: 4:5 "one faith. All people, even atheists, have faith in something. The Christian faith, however, is the only *saving* faith (Ephesians 2:8). It is an *understanding* faith (Hebrews 11:3), a *justifying* faith (Romans 5:1), a *purifying* faith (Acts 15:9), a *living* faith (Galatians 3:11), a *stable* faith (II Corinthians 1:24), and a *triumphant* faith (I John 5:4).
- David Guzik

"For the church fellowship in which the Gentile and Jewish believers were united was no mere enrollment on a register of membership; it involved their union with Christ by faith and therefore their union with each other as fellow-members of his body.' (Bruce)

We are confident that this unity is found in Jesus Christ, by the Spirit of God. 'We want unity in the truth of God through the Spirit of God. This let us seek after; let us live near to Christ, for this is the best way of promoting unity. Divisions in Churches never begin with those full of love for the Savior.' (Spurgeon)" - David Guzik

"Gave gifts" (4:8)

- What attitude should we have about our gifts? 1 Corinthians 4:7

- What perspective does this give you about gifts that you don't have but that you see in others?

Digging Deeper

What picture does Paul give in I Corinthian 12:12-27 of the unity and importance of a body of believers, each with different gifts, working together?

- How are we to respond to God's gifts? 1 Peter 4:10

FYI: "In the body physical, the various members are not alike either in size or importance, but all are necessary for its proper and healthful functioning. Likewise with this church, every redeemed member has been placed in it according to God's will and all have a part to play in its outworking. Whether they are small, medium or large vessels is not their responsibility. What they should seek to know is exactly what work the Lord has called them to do and then to remember that all-needed grace is available for the task and therefore they can fulfill it and are responsible to Him to carry it out."
- Stuart Allen (84)

"Pastors/teachers" (4:11)

- What does 1 Peter 5:1-4 say about shepherding? (pastors =literally shepherds)
- What positions of leadership was Paul given? 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11

"Apostles" (4:11)

FYI: Paul used the term 'apostles' in two main senses:

- (i) of those who were immediately commissioned by Christ to preach the gospel;
- (ii) of others who, though not immediately commissioned by Christ as Paul and the Jerusalem apostles were, preached the gospel in close association with those who were apostles in the stricter sense (so in 1 Thessalonians 2:6 he lists Timothy and Silvanus with himself as 'apostles of Christ')."

The unity of the faith to which he desires his reader to attain, along with himself, depends not simply on the initial act of faith by which one enters into the family of God, but on that ever increasing appreciation of all that is involved in Christian faith for living and thinking. And this appreciation is best reached in fellowship with one another...A community of believers which manifest the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God is a mature church, in which the doctrine of the body of Christ is not merely honored in word but exhibited in deed as a living reality."
- F. F. Bruce

"Tossed here and there" (4:14)

- In the following verses, underline the deceptive methods, false teachings or ways people are deceived.

Mark 7:7-8,13 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'
8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."... 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." NIV

- Acts 20:30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. NIV
- Romans 16:18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. NASU
- Colossians 2:4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments NIV
- Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. NIV
- 2 Timothy 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. NASU
- 2 Peter 2:1a,3a ...Just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them... In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up... NIV
- 2 Peter 2:18,19 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity-for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. NIV
- 2 Peter 3:16 [Paul's] letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. NIV
- 2 Peter 3:5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ESV

- How did Paul feel about those who distorted the gospel? Galatians 1:8-9