

Ephesians 3:18-20 | Ephesians 4:1-16

It's more than you: A call to unity.

- Unity is not optional.
- Unity is not easy.
- I am called to maintain it, not create it.

Why is unity hard to maintain?

- Pride
- Selfishness
- Comparison
- Malnourished Immaturity

Your role in getting along:

- Always be humble
- Always be gentle
- Always be patient

We are one in Christ, but uniquely different.

Being one comes with responsibilities.

We are either in the process of growing or dying.

Growing:

- Am I growing in knowledge?
- Am I growing in love?
- Am I growing in service?

You are a necessary part of the body. (Family)

*Many of our Life Groups use this insert as a discussion guide throughout the week. If you're not in a Life Group, consider taking that Next Step and joining one today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>*

### Share your story

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover as we worshiped the Lord together this past Sunday?

How do you understand what it means to have unity?

What have you seen as the largest barrier to unity? (In our church, home, city, nation, etc.) Why is it so important to have unity in our church family?

### Connect to God's story

#### Read Ephesians 4:1-6.

How does Paul describe what unity in our church looks like? Who does he use as an example? Where do we succeed and where do we need to grow?

Paul writes the word "one" seven times in verses 4-6. Take a moment and write down what follows the word "one" in each instance below:

One:

\_\_\_\_\_

One:

\_\_\_\_\_

One:

\_\_\_\_\_

One:

\_\_\_\_\_

One:

\_\_\_\_\_

One:

\_\_\_\_\_

One:

Above is some of our essential beliefs as followers of Jesus. Why is it important to know what these are? Are there any you've struggled to believe? What do you do when you come to a crisis of belief?

**Read Ephesians 4:7-16.**

*We all have diverse gifts from Christ that under Him bring about unity.* What is the purpose for these gifts to the Church? (see: 4:12-13) How might our oneness be revealed through these gifts?

According to Paul, what makes the body grow? How does our maturity help us be anchored people? Are you anchored or do you feel adrift and tossed around?

*Take a moment to pray for each other about the Church and our unity as we follow Jesus and learn how to love each other self-sacrificially as Jesus did.*

**Real Life Prayer for 2022**

Lord Jesus,

I affirm that I am fully known by You; my thoughts, fears, hopes, and dreams. You know my past, present, and future. I am fully known and loved by You.

I desire to know You more - Your heart, Your will, Your purposes.

I commit to making You known in my areas of influence through my words, actions, attitude, and joy. I commit to love as You love.

I ask you, Lord Jesus, to use me daily for Your purposes.

I pray this with a heart of gratitude,

Amen.

Notes:

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