

# REDEMPTION CHURCH

## Vintage Church | Week 1: *The Call to Christian Unity*

### EPHESIANS 4:1-6

#### Unity in the Body of Christ

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

### PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Welcome to our *Vintage Church* series. We are kicking off a study of Ephesians 4 by asking, “What does it mean to be the church that Jesus came to plant?”

When we think of *Vintage Church*, perhaps we think of flannel boards, choir robes, communion tables, Veggie Tales, and DC Talk. That’s the church world many of us grew up in, and in some ways (save the choir robes), we shouldn’t mind returning to. Over the next six weeks, we will evaluate some of the unchanging principles held by the church that Jesus came to plant. Starting with Ephesians 4:1-6, this chapter launches into Paul’s application portion of Ephesians, following a strong doctrinal appeal in the first three chapters.

#### What must we see in this passage?

**What are we supposed to do?** *Walk in a way worthy of the calling.*

**How do we respond to “no condemnation to no separation”?** *Make your calling mean something!*

#### The call to unity.

As believers, we recognize that we have been called by Christ and granted salvation by God's grace. This call comes at a strong urging, and Paul provides specific outcomes for how to walk out this call in verses 2-3: “*with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*”

#### The attitudes of unity.

##### 1. Humility

- Humility precipitates movement.
- “*Real leadership serves people.*” Philippians 2:3-4
- “*I can be happy, contented, and supportive even when things aren’t going 100% my way.*” No one-upping.

**2. Gentleness:** Not quick to provoke, prone to disagreement, or desirous to destroy.

**3. Patience:** Understanding each other’s weaknesses, growth patterns, and differences. Slow to anger.

**4. Bearing with one another in love:** While humble, gentle, and patient, we don’t withhold love or quickly abandon each other over disagreements or disappointments—eager to maintain unity. See [1 Cor 13](#).

## APOSTLE'S CREED

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*

See also, [Nicene Creed](#).

## DISCUSS

1. What draws your deepest love and affection?
2. What are you most looking forward to?
3. Who are you taking your orders from?
4. What do you fundamentally believe?
5. How did you become a Christian?
6. Who do you think is in charge?
7. What family are you in?

These attitudes produce a desire and an eagerness to maintain the unity of the Spirit. We don't create unity; God does. We are to recognize it and keep it. This type of unity is impossible to disband without a severe break -it torments the soul and causes upheaval. The enemy loves and thrives off of it.

**These attitudes must be underneath this unity for it to thrive.**

[Spurgeon](#) mentions this is NOT a call to uniformity or a one-church mindset. There is one universal church, but this is not a call for centralized power or conformity. A little shake-up can be good because it can decentralize power and limit corruption.

**How is this unity formed?** (See verses 4-6)

- We have unity because of what we have in common. Agreement is our strength. What do we agree on?
  - Fundamentals of the Faith (Nicene Creed).
- We have much in common, and we must unite with those we share these commonalities with, for we are already one in Christ.

**It is** a unity of the Spirit, one faith, baptism, etc.

**It is not** uniformity in expression, a call to one church, or accepting or adopting practices/doctrines of every other church.

**The power of unity.**

1. **One body, One Spirit:** We are not two, but one. Where there is one body and one Spirit, there is one heart. We have one passion and one Lord -Jesus; one power source -the Holy Spirit.; and one great love -from the Father.

2. **One hope:** We're all looking forward to the same thing, and all our hopes are placed in the same Person.

3. **One Lord**

- Jesus is the savior, ruler, and King of all.
- We aren't taking directions from more than one person. There aren't multiple generals vying for our attention -Christ and Christ alone is Lord and in charge of God's church.

4. **One faith**

- Unity of doctrine
- Post-denominational: Calvinism/Arminianism, continuationism/cessationism, complementarianism/egalitarianism, and eschatology
  - We agree to "discuss, not divide" over 2nd-tier doctrines.

5. **One baptism:** Only one way we're saved and united with Christ.

6. **One God and Father of all** is mutually our Father and has dominion over us all and over everything (omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient).