

**Stark Road Gospel Hall
Bi-Monthly Bible Reading
March 16, 2019**

EPHESIANS 4

- I. ***Chapters 1-3: Doctrine: Our Riches in Christ. The Believer's Position in Christ. The Unity of the Church Positionally.***
 - II. ***Chapters 4-6: Duty: Our Responsibilities in Christ. The Believer's Practice in the Lord. The Unity of the Church Practically.***
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OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS 4

A. The Unity of Believers in Christ (vs 1-16)

Since believers are united in the body of Christ we should demonstrate that unity.

1. Appeal for Unity among the Believers (vs 1-3)

- a. Walking worthy of our standing before God (vs 1)
- b. Displaying humility, patience and love toward others (vs 2)
- c. Desiring to maintain the unity of the Spirit (vs 3)

2. Doctrinal Basis for Unity (vs 4-6)

Seven doctrinal realities that form the basis of Christian unity.

- One body
- One Spirit
- One hope
- One Lord
- One faith
- One baptism
- One God and Father

3. Divine Provision for Producing Unity in the Body (vs 7-16)

- a. Gifts to produce unity (vs 7-11)
 - i. Individual grace to serve (vs 7)
 - ii. The source of gifts to the Church – the Risen Christ (vs 8-10)
 - iii. The gifts given to the Church (vs 11)
- b. Purpose of the Gifts – equipping the saints & edifying the Church (vs 12)
- c. Goal of the Gifts (vs 13-16)
 - i. Maturity – common knowledge of “the faith” and the Son of God (vs 13)
 - ii. Stability - in the face of false teaching (vs 14)
 - iii. Christ-likeness - in every way (vs 15)
 - iv. Unity and mutual dependence between members of the body (vs 16)

B. The New Morality of Believers in Christ (vs 17-31)

Believers are expected to live radically different lives.

1. Discarding the Pagan Life (vs 17-19)

Seven features of the unconverted Gentile

- a. Futile thinking leading to purposeless lives (vs 17)
- b. God-ward (vs 18)
 - i. Blind to understanding truth
 - ii. Alienated from God and divine life
 - iii. Unresponsive to spiritual truth
- c. Man-ward (vs 19)
 - i. Shameless in regard to sin
 - ii. Dominated by sensuality and sexual sin
 - iii. Insatiable desires for every kind of uncleanness

2. Putting on the New Man in Christ (vs 20-24)

- a. Learning the truth in Christ (vs 20-21)
- b. Putting off the old self – what we were before conversion (vs 22)
- c. Renewing the mind (vs 23)
- d. Putting on the new self – created in the likeness of God (vs 24)

3. Features of the New Man (vs 25-31)

- a. Putting away falsehood and speaking the truth (vs 25)
- b. Anger management (vs 26-27)
- c. Sharing rather than stealing (vs 28)
- d. Speech that builds up rather than corrupts (vs 29)
- e. Grieving not the Spirit (vs 30)
- f. Putting away sins which flow from bitterness (vs 31)
- g. Displaying kindness, compassion and forgiveness (vs 32)