

# SERMON OUTLINE

## GOD HAS A PLAN—AND WE'RE PART OF IT "God's Plan for Unity" Ephesians 4:1-16

No. 2970

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Having outlined God's revelation concerning the church and after praying that the Ephesians would grasp its significance, Paul exhorted them to implement a lifestyle characterized by the unity to which they had been called. This is our calling, too!

### I. The Exhortation to Unity. vv. 1-3a

- A. The exhortation to be consistent—"worthy of the calling."
- B. The exhortation to be considerate.
  - 1. Humility—"lowliness of mind."
  - 2. Gentleness—"strength under control."
  - 3. Patience—"slow to anger."
  - 4. Forbearance—"mutuality of attitude."
  - 5. Love—"concern for the well-being of the other."
- C. The exhortation to be constructive—"make every effort to keep the unity..."
  - 1. Unity of the Spirit.
  - 2. Unity in the bond of peace.

### II. The Explanation of Unity. vv. 3b-6

- A. Our unity has its roots in who God is—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- B. Our unity flourishes in what God has done:
  - 1. The one Spirit has created the one body.
  - 2. The one Lord is the object of our faith, the one into whom we are baptized, the reason for our hope.
  - 3. The one God and Father is "over," "through," and "in" all.

### III. The Expression of Unity. vv. 7-11

- A. The unity of the Godhead allows for the diversity of the Trinity.
- B. The unity of the body reflects the diversity of gifting. See 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
  - 1. The "descended" Lord took captives.
  - 2. The "ascended" Lord gave gifts.
  - 3. The "exalted" Lord gave gifted people as gifts to the church.

### IV. The Expectation of Unity. vv. 12-16

- A. God's people will be equipped for service.
  - 1. The priesthood of all believers—no need for priestly intermediaries.
  - 2. The servanthood of all believers—no place for a clerical elite.
- B. The body will be built up to experience:
  - 1. Unity. 2. Maturity. 3. Stability. 4. Charity. 5. Integrity.

**Point to Ponder:** What steps can I take to enhance the unity of the body of Christ?