

## Main Ingredient Of Unity

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## Ephesians 4:1-32

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

### Welcome our new pastor, Kirk Gambrell



Our speaker today and continuing forward is our new pastor, Kirk Gambrell. He comes to us from Camp of the Woods, a Christian resort and retreat center in upstate New York. Kirk served there the

past three years as the Director of Staff Ministries and the LIFT Associate Director, a discipleship program held at the camp during spring and fall semesters. LIFT stands for Leaders in Further Training.

Kirk holds a Th.M. in pastoral ministries from Dallas Theological Seminary. Prior to moving to New York, he served in church ministry for eight years as a Family Pastor and before that as a Children's Pastor. Kirk and his wife, Laura, met while attending Texas A&M University. Laura has served alongside Kirk in each of his ministry positions, teaching women's Bible study, leading children's worship, and most recently, mentoring the young women in the LIFT program. Kirk and Laura have been married for 15 years and have two boys, Spencer (13) and Sean (11). They enjoy spending time in the outdoors, playing Settlers of Catan, and watching Aggie football. Please be sure to take the opportunity to give them a very warm welcome.

### And his family.....



## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### Read Ephesians 4:1-32 (NET)

<sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called,

<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

<sup>3</sup> making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you too were called to the one hope of your calling,

<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.

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he captured captives; he gave gifts to men.”

<sup>9</sup> Now what is the meaning of “he ascended,” except that he also descended to the lower regions, namely, the earth?

<sup>10</sup> He, the very one who descended, is also the one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.

<sup>11</sup> It was he who gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ,

<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God—a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ’s full stature.

<sup>14</sup> So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes.

<sup>15</sup> But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head.

<sup>16</sup> From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body grows in love.

<sup>17</sup> So I say this, and insist in the Lord, that you no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

<sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding, being alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts.

<sup>19</sup> Because they are callous, they have given themselves over to indecency for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

<sup>20</sup> But you did not learn about Christ like this,

<sup>21</sup> if indeed you heard about him and were taught in him, just as the truth is in Jesus.

<sup>22</sup> You were taught with reference to your former way of life to lay aside the old man who is being corrupted in accordance with deceitful desires,

<sup>23</sup> to be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

<sup>24</sup> and to put on the new man who has been created in God’s image—in righteousness and holiness that comes from truth.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, having laid aside falsehood, each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

<sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on the cause of your anger.

<sup>27</sup> Do not give the devil an opportunity.

<sup>28</sup> The one who steals must steal no longer; rather he must labor, doing good with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with the one who has need.

<sup>29</sup> You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

<sup>31</sup> You must put away all bitterness, anger, wrath, quarreling, and slanderous talk—indeed all malice.

<sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.

## **EXPLORE His Word**

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What does God MEAN?

1. In chapter 4, what group of people is Paul concerned about in his promotion of unity?
2. How does God make peace with us?
3. How can we reflect God's character (that made peace with us) when it comes to unity within the body?
4. When is unity hardest in the Church?
5. What things have you seen in the church that have most effectively promoted unity?

6. What is the key to our personal character when it comes to promoting unity?

7. How do our different spiritual gifts fit into us being a unified body?

## **③ EMBRACE His Word**

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Why does this MATTER to me?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

## **Sermon Notes**

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