

Discover the New Testament – Ephesians 3

June 27, 2012 | mediaatvictory.com/series/discoverthent

Ephesians 4 (NLT)

I. Unity in the Church

A. Exhort to Unity in the Body

¹ Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to **lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.** ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves **united in the Spirit**, binding yourselves together with peace.

B. Explanation of Unity in the Body

⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as **you have been called** to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all.

C. Gifts are a means for Unity in the Body

⁷ However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. ⁸ That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and **gave gifts to his people.**" ⁹ Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. ¹⁰ And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. ¹¹ **Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.**

D. Purpose of the Gifts – Call to Service!

¹² **Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.** ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such **unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son** that we will be **mature** in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. **We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching.** We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, **growing in every way more and more like Christ**, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.**

Matthew 25:14-15, 24-29 (NKJV)

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. **‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’** ²⁴ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ²⁹ ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

Matthew 20:27-29

²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Luke 2:40, 45-50 – A Time of Preparation

⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. ⁴⁵ So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶ Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸ So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.” ⁴⁹ And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

II. Living in Holiness

A. Put off the Old Nature

¹⁷ With the Lord’s authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸ Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹ They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that isn’t what you learned about Christ. ²¹ **Since you have**

heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him,²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.

Proverbs 29:18 - New Century Version (NCV)

Where there is no word from God, people are uncontrolled, but those who obey what they have been taught are happy.

B. Put on the New Nature

²³ Instead, **let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.** ²⁴ **Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.** ²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶ And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil. ²⁸ If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. ²⁹ Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Proverbs: 4:20-24

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who **find** them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

- **Find:** to locate, attain, or obtain by search or effort; A valuable and gratifying discovery; to discover or confirm the truth; Win, achieve, acquire

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ I **beseech** you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a **living sacrifice, holy**, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

C. Grieve not the Holy Spirit

³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 5 (NLT)

¹ Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

D. Walking in the Light

¹³ But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, ¹⁴ for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” ¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

E. Be Filled with the Spirit

¹⁸ Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Submission to Authority

A. Wives submit to Husbands

²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

B. Husbands Love Your Wives

²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just **as Christ loved the church**. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. ³⁰ And we are members of his body.

C. Children: Obey Your parents

Ephesians 6 (NLT)

¹ Children, **obey your parents** because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ² “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: ³ If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

D. Servants: Submit to Your Masters

⁵ Slaves, **obey your earthly masters** with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. ⁶ Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. ⁷ Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ⁸ Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free. ⁹ Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites.

Psalms 91

Dwelling in the secret place is submitting to His authority!

¹ **He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.** ² **I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."**

Romans 6:16

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Rom. 13:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

IV. Our Conduct in Spiritual Battle

A. Put on The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ **Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.** ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be **fully prepared.** ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.