

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

Get the Daily Devotional Podcast!

<http://www.oneyearbibleclub.com>

September 25 – Ephesians 4:1-16

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;* ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." ⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

In chapter four the apostle Paul talks all about the reality of the Body of Christ and how all of us that have believed in Christ for salvation are now part of that body. He says that we are to walk worthy of the calling of being a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ and that requires us to exercise a lot of love and patience with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to make every effort to guard the peace and unity of the church by walking in the Spirit. According to Jesus, the greatest witness the church can give to the world is their strong spiritual unity and this is what he prayed to the Father for in John chapter 17:23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

For this reason, it's vital that we learn to align ourselves with the purposes of God for the local church. This means choosing to walk in love and unity with all Believers so that when unbelievers visit the church they will sense and feel God's Spirit and love among us and realize that the living God is definitely among us. When you go to some churches it's like you're walking into a freezer because of the cold attitudes of the people being unfriendly, not welcoming them

and especially when there is strife or divisions in the local church people can just feel it in the air. On the other hand, when you go to other churches you can just feel the love of God coming out of the people as they warmly greet you and the great unity and positive attitude that exists along with the presence of the Spirit of God in the worship and preaching of the Word. What people experience at a church service either impacts them positively or negatively. People can either be turned on or turned off by what they experience at a local church and it's our job to make sure that we do everything we can to lift up Jesus and love people so they will want to get saved and become part of a loving spiritual community that is filled with God's Spirit.

In verses 4-5 Paul outlines seven common denominator's that are the essential building blocks that unite all Christians. No group calling themselves Christian has the exclusive right to claim any of these for themselves alone because all of them belong to every born-again Believer.

One Body – is the body of Christ made up of all believing Christians throughout the entire world regardless of race, county, label or denominational affiliation.

One Spirit – is the Holy Spirit that is revealed as part of the Trinity throughout the entire Old and New Testament. It's the Holy Spirit that causes us all to experience the love of Christ and be born-again.

One Hope – all believers have a common hope of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and of eternal life forever in the Kingdom of God. We have hope because only Jesus defeated death and rose from the grave the third day.

One Lord – is the Lord Jesus Christ. Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord is the one true confession that all believers share. The Lord Jesus Christ is the second person in the Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

One Faith – is the Biblical faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died on the cross to save us from our sins and was raised again the third day. This faith in Jesus is the central truth that unites Christians throughout the entire world.

One Baptism – is baptism into the Body of Christ which every born-again believer experiences at salvation. Water baptism by immersion identifies all Christians as believers in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is an outward sign that they have believed on Jesus Christ and have chosen to follow him as Lord.

One God and Father of all – is the one true God the Creator of the universe. He is the first person of the Holy Trinity. The Lord Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 6 to pray "Our father in heaven hallowed be your name.

For these reasons Believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ everywhere worldwide have these seven things in common that make us one people, the people of the God revealed in the

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

Get the Daily Devotional Podcast!

<http://www.oneyearbibleclub.com>

Holy Scriptures. One preacher said; ***“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty and in all things love always.”*** I think that is a good rule of thumb to follow and if we concentrate on these seven things that we all share in common it will help us to develop a spirit of unity that Christianity is meant to reveal to the world.

Next Paul says that to each of us has been given a measure of the gift of Christ. After Jesus died on the cross he descended into the lower parts of the earth and delivered all of the old testament saints that had believed in the promised Messiah and took them all back up to heaven. Then Jesus sent the gift of the Holy Spirit into the church so each of us that have been born again have been given a measure or a portion of the gift of Christ meaning a distribution or impartation of the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord. There are several places in the New Testament where the Bible teaches that all Christians have been given at least one spiritual gift if not more to use for the building up of the body of Christ, the church. Inverse 11 Paul lists five ministries that Christ specifically gave to His body, each one bringing a unique ministry of Christ to the church. These are commonly referred to as the five-fold ministry gifts.

Apostles – are called “sent ones” which started with Jesus Christ himself as the original sent one from the father and called in Hebrews chapter 3 Jesus Christ the apostle and high priest of our confession. Jesus then called and appointed the 12 apostles during his earthly ministry and then he also sent 70 others to preach the gospel. After his resurrection he appointed the apostle Paul and others to continue this ministry of preaching the gospel, planting new churches and developing others into the ministry.

Prophets – Jesus also was the original prophet which Moses foretold that God would send. Prophets are used of God to preach the word of God and typically function with spiritual gifts that build up the body of Christ with revelation knowledge and they minister to believers by the gifts of the Holy Spirit even bringing personal words confirming individual destinies and the purposes of God for specific churches.

Evangelists – Jesus was a great evangelist. He traveled all over Israel preaching the good news of the kingdom of God, healing the sick and setting captives free. Evangelist’s typically travel around preaching the message of salvation with the Holy Spirit confirming their message through healing’s and deliverances from demons. The great joy of the evangelist is to lead sinners to repentance, see them receive Christ and be saved.

Pastors – The Bible says that Jesus is the good shepherd so Christ was the model pastor who cared for people and had compassion on their needs. Christ calls some to be pastors and they are to be the shepherds of local churches feeding the flock and ministering to their needs. Many times Pastors stay in one location all of their lives and are very content to see a local church

grow and the members develop into spiritual maturity which brings great satisfaction to a pastor's heart.

Teachers – Christ was known as the great teacher. He calls people to teach today with a special anointing to expound the word of God and explain the meaning of what is written. If you have the gift of teaching then you're going to love spending time studying the word of God and preparing messages to teach. Many times, teachers will lead a group through an entire book of the Bible and they are known to teach the word of God in a systematic way. The Lord has blessed me with this gift and I absolutely love to read the Bible and develop messages to teach as I am right now through the One Year Bible Club.

These five ministry gifts were given by Christ to His church to accomplish several purposes:

- ✓ Equip the saints to do the work of the ministry.
- ✓ Build up and strengthen the body of Christ.
- ✓ Bring the complete message and ministry of Jesus Christ imparting the knowledge of Christ and the unity or completeness of the faith among the people of God.
- ✓ These ministries develop the church until it reaches the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ. In other words, they lead Believers into becoming mature Christians both in their faith and in doing the works of Jesus.
- ✓ Additionally, fivefold ministry gifts discern false teachers that twist the word of God teaching that leads the people of God astray. They defend the truth and correct misleading teachings that are sent by Satan to corrupt the faith of God's people. All of the five-fold ministry gifts are vital to grow the church today.

Finally, Paul says that we are to speak the truth in love to one another in order to grow up into the fullness of Jesus Christ. He explains how the church grows as a body saying in verse 16 that all the members of the Body of Christ are connected by the Lord to each other. As each of us does our part according to the measure or the grace of God in our lives the church will grow and build itself up as we minister one to another motivated by the love of God. This is why it is so important that every Christian discover their unique spiritual gift and begin to use it in the context of out-reach in the community preaching the gospel, meeting needs or serving within the local church.

Remember that there are two broad categories of gifting's revealed in the Bible either vocal which has something to say or practical gifts which motivates us to serve and we need to determine our gift and stay in our zone because that's where were going to become most effective to reach others for Christ and build up the church. This happens as we all do our

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

Get the Daily Devotional Podcast!

<http://www.oneyearbibleclub.com>

individual part. There are no unimportant Christians because the Bible says the church only grows as every part does its work and that includes both you and me as well.

WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Every Christian is part of the body of Christ
- 2) We have to guard the spiritual unity of the church because we either attract or repel people based on the witness of our unity.
- 3) Seven common denominators connect all Christians which are the basis for our unity.
- 4) Christ has given the fivefold ministry gifts to lead and build up his church the body of Christ.
- 5) The church grows as each of us discovers and uses our spiritual gifts to serve one another motivated by the love of God.

PRAYER TO APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES



ORDINATION

We provide Ministry Credentials and Ordination through Diamond Ministerial Association. Click to learn more and apply!

<http://www.diamondinstitute.org/ordination>



ONLINE COURSES

For Bible courses and ministry resources see our online school Diamond Institute. Enroll free today!

<http://www.diamondinstitute.org/enroll>