“Christian Calling of Unity for The Church Body”

**Ephesians 4:1-6** Sunday August 27, 2023 Pastor Timothy Atkins

## INTRODUCTION READ Ephesians 4:1-32

After many months of teaching the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John learning about being a disciple of Jesus according to His words. We are making disciples of Jesus with the teaching of His words [Matthew 28:18-20]. Last week we taught on Being Members of the Body of Christ from First Corinthians chapter twelve. This week we continue in this short series of messages for this season of New Life Fellowship. Today “Christian Calling of Unity for The Church Body” in Ephesians chapter four.

Two parts to the epistle to the Ephesians . . .

 Chapters 1-3 POSITION doctrines, truths, privileges, prayers

 the explained blessings and exalted positions in salvation

 Chapters 4-6 PRACTICE duties, responsibilities, relationships

 the obligations which such privileges put upon the saved

1. Our Christian Calling Is The Formation of Unity

 As A Church Body 4:1-3

Christian Walk . . . Calling . . . Humility . . . Love . . . Unity

appropriate conduct, proper character, right attitude, godly atmosphere

“I THEREFORE . . . appeal to and beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the [divine] calling to which you have been called [with behavior that is a credit to the summons to God’s service]” Amplified Bible

1. Christian Responsibilities Which Sustain Unity 4:1 APPEAL

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you . . .”

“ . . . to walk in a manner worthy of the calling . . .

 . . . you have been called . . .”

B. Christian Attitudes Which Strengthen Unity 4:2 ATTITUDE

 “with all humility and gentleness . . .” “gentleness of attitude and

behavior, in contrast with harshness in one’s dealings with others”

 “with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,”

 with patience having patience [bearing] with one another . . .

C. Christian Interests That Maintain Unity 4:3 AMBITION

 “being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit . . .”

 working hard to cause to continue . . . “to be eager to do something,

with the implication of readiness to expend energy and effort”

 “Endeavoring” “to take care, make haste, do one’s best.” It speaks of

 guarding something which is in one’s possession. Wuest

“order your behavior in a manner worthy of the summons with which you were called, with every lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, doing your best to safeguard the unanimity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Wuest

1. Our Christian Calling Is The Foundation of Unity

 As A Church Body 4:4-6

1. Christian Truth of One Body Establishes Unity 4:4
2. Christian Truth of One Lord Leads Unity 4:5
3. Christian Truth of One God and Father Guides Unity 4:6

 “of all who is over all and through all and in all.”

CONCLUSION READ Ephesians 4:12-16 Unity . . . Maturity . . . Ministry

* “Christian faith and Christian practice mutually befriend each other.” MH
* A real possibility this can be hard and reality of some resistance within us
* Present need for all to be humble, more gentle, have patience, and love
* Being one in this body of believers who does confess all and any sins of pride, harshness, impatience, & selfishness which we bring into this body
* Encouraging this church body by walking according to the calling of God
* Giving the best effort being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in this church body because of the Christian calling for this church body
* Memorize these verses for the sake of this church body