

CALL OF DUTY: STICK TOGETHER EPH. 4:1-6

Our calling demands we strive to preserve our unity. 4:1,3

- ◆ This is a pivotal point in Ephesians. Now = our duty in view of Ch. 1-3. Contrast our new *walk* (lifestyle) to our former *walk* before Christ in 2:2.
- ◆ All of 1-16 focuses on preserving the unity made in 2:11ff. Note that preserving unity (not creating it) is a constant theme: 4:13, Jn. 17:11, 21-23, Col. 3:14, Phil. 2:2, I Cor. 1:10, II Cor. 13:11.

Our God provides the basis for our unity. 4:4-6

- ◆ *One* occurs 7x in this creedal-like listing of why we should stay unified.
- ◆ Unity is modeled by the trinity (*Lord* = Jesus, 3:1, Phil. 2:11, I Cor. 8:6).
- ◆ Unity is seen in our shared experiences (hope, faith, body, baptism).

Our lifestyle will make or break our unity. 4:2

- ◆ Lifestyle attitudes we must have to preserve our costly unity:
 - 1) *Humility* (lowliness), as the Lord modeled, Phil. 2:8.
 - 2) *Gentleness* (meekness), as the Lord modeled, II Cor. 10:1.
 - 3) *Patience* (long suffering), as the Lord is modeling, II Pt. 3:9.
 - 4) *Tolerant* (putting up with), as the Lord modeled, Matt. 17:17.Living up to God's high calling means aiming _____.

Question: Am I a unity builder by how I deal with others?

EPHESIANS
1:3,4

DOCTRINE: OUR POSITION Seated with Christ 1-3	DUTY: OUR PRACTICE Walking worthy Standing firm 4-6
Privileges of the Church spiritual blessings in Christ saved to receive future riches citizenship in God's household	Responsibilities of the Church maintain unity in love lovingly fulfill our roles battle evil forces
BIG IDEA: Our lavish blessings in Christ call for loving conduct from us.	