

Getting Along With Others
Series: Identity
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Getting Started:

- **Eph. 1-3** gives us Biblical truths regarding our identity in Christ.
- In **Eph. 3:1-13** Paul shared how God's plan was to bring Jews and non-Jews together into one body, the Church.
- **Eph. 3:14-21** is Paul's prayer for followers of Christ. He prays for inner strength to do what we need to (**vs. 16**); for us to be rooted in Christ (**vs. 17**); that we show God's love to others (**vs. 17**); that we would experience the richness of God's love towards us and that we, in turn, show it to others (**vss. 18-19**); and that God will use us far above what we could imagine (**vss. 20-21**).

How To Have Unity And Get Along With Others

**** Eph. 4:1 - Reflecting Jesus in all we do**

- Paul not only was in prison for his faith, he was also a prisoner of the Lord - meaning he was totally committed to whatever God wanted him to do.
- He "urges" (encourages) us to live out our calling, which refers to our being followers of Christ. This "calling" has to do with our salvation. It is like Paul is coming alongside us and exhorting us to live out our lives.
- The word "conduct" deals with how we live. We are to live in a "worthy manner."
- **Practical:** Live what we claim to believe.

Practice humility - Eph. 4:2

- Humility is not seen in comparing ourselves to others, but it is seen in comparing ourselves to God.
- We see ourselves as being in need of God and we have a humble opinion about ourselves. See **Mt. 5:3**.
- Greek and Roman culture saw humility as a negative.
- **Phil. 2:3-4** tells us what we are to put others above ourselves.
- Jesus showed humility in **Jn. 13** in washing the disciples' feet. He gave them an "example" to follow.
- **Practical:** Remember that all we have is because of God. We do all have struggles and things we work on. We need God every day. Minister to others, show compassion and concern.

Practice gentleness - Eph. 4:2

- Jesus was "gentle" (**Mt. 11:29**) and it is an evidence of the Spirit in our lives (**Gal. 5:23**). Some see it as weakness, but it is not. This word, like humility, was seen as a weakness in Roman culture.
- **Jam. 1:21; Jam. 3:13** and **Titus 3:2** talk of this word.
- The word means "strength under control." When it comes to our relationship with God, we recognize that in all things we believe that He is wise and good, and we accept His leading. When it comes to dealing with people, we recognize that at times God teaches us through people. When we are mistreated, we forgive and restore others if we need to.

- **Practical:** Decide to see God's hand at work in things. Try to see it from God's perspective. Don't seek revenge, try to help others, knowing that we can fall also. Do not use or abuse people. Pray for people who annoy us. This is seen in living a steady life.

Practice patience - Eph. 4:2

- This word deals with how we handle people. When wronged, we don't seek revenge. We leave things up to God. We guard against bitterness. It is used of God in **Rom. 2:4**.
- **Practical:** When treated poorly, we don't respond back in the same way. We allow God to intervene. This does not mean we are doormats, but we put the situation in God's hands. When needed we respond kindly, not with the idea of "winning" but of helping. We practice patience with others because we will need the same.

Practice allowance - Eph. 4:2

- The word for "bearing" has the idea of "enduring" other people. We need to allow for others' faults as God loves us even with our weaknesses.
- People may have different opinions than us. This does not mean we do not try to help others grow or challenge wrong thinking. The issue is we recognize none of us have arrived.
- It takes love to endure others' opinions and actions (**Jn. 13:34-35**).
- The result of unity is found in **Eph. 4:3-6**. Note **vs. 3**.
- **Practical:** We must be willing to carry the load without expecting thanks in return. Choose to allow people to have opinions that are different than ours. When trying to help others, keep in mind that we still need to see there may be differences. Unity takes work.

Be gracious towards others. Recognize that the Church is made up of all kinds of personalities.