

***STUDYING THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS***  
***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

**Lesson 7 - Unity in the Body of Christ - Ephesians 4:1-16**

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

*Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.*

EPH 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. [2] Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. [3] Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- [5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism; [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

EPH 4:7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. [8] This is why it says:

"When he ascended on high,  
he led captives in his train  
and gave gifts to men."

EPH 4:9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? [10] He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) [11] It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, [12] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

EPH 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. [15] Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. [16] From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Lesson 7 - Unity in the Body of Christ - Ephesians 4:1-16**

75. What did Paul urge the Ephesians to do? (4:1)

76. What three virtues foster unity among Christians? (4:2)

77. How should Christians conduct themselves toward each other? Why? (4:2-6)
78. What are the seven elements of Christian unity? (4:4-6)
79. How is Christian unity related to the nature of God? (4:4-6)
80. How are we enabled to live at peace with each other? (4:7)
81. Who gives grace to each believer? (4:7)
82. How did Paul confirm God's giving of gifts? (4:8)
83. What commentary did Paul make on the Old Testament passage he quoted? Why? (4:9-11)
84. With what kind of people does God fill the church? (4:11)
85. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? (4:12-13)
86. What results from gifted believers equipping the church? (4:14-16)

### **Lesson 8 - Living as Children of Light - Ephesians 4:17-32**

EPH 4:17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. [18] They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. [19] Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

EPH 4:20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. [21] Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. [22] You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; [23] to be made new in the attitude of your minds; [24] and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

EPH 4:25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. [26] "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, [27] and do not give the devil a foothold. [28] He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

EPH 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [30] And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [31] Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander,

along with every form of malice. [32] Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Lesson 8 - Living as Children of Light - Ephesians 4:17-32**

87. In what way were Ephesian believers instructed not to live as Gentiles? (4:17-19)
88. How did Paul contrast the Ephesian Christians with the Gentiles? (4:20-21)
89. In what way does God want Christians to change? (4:22-24)
90. How should new Christians stop living? (4:22)
91. How should new Christians begin living? (4:23-24)
92. What should we keep in mind concerning lying, anger, and stealing? (4:25-28)
93. How should believers speak to one another? (4:29)
94. How can the Holy Spirit be hurt? (4:29-30)
95. Of what five vices are believers to rid themselves? (4:31)
96. What positive commands did Paul give the Ephesians? (4:32)