

**One in Christ**  
**Lesson 5**  
**Ephesians 4:1-16**

**Call to Unity - Ephesians 4:1-7**

Paul had written of God's grace and his own call to serve as an apostle to the Gentiles. He had been faithful to follow God's call to preach the gospel to all who would hear. As a result, he was in Rome as a prisoner for the Lord. As Paul wrote the final section of his letter, he reminded his readers that they too have been called. He encouraged them to also be faithful and to put their faith into practice.

1. From Ephesians 4:1:
  - How important was this next appeal to Paul?
  
  - What was his appeal?
2. How did Paul describe the believer who was living out that call based upon his/her faith in Christ? (Ephesians 4:2,3)
3. Knowing the church is made up of many different types of people, Paul emphasized the importance of unity within the body of Christ. Christ is not to be divided as we are all one in Him. Make a list of what else Paul said there is only one of: (Ephesians 4:4-6)
4. What else has each one received from Christ? (Ephesians 4:7)

**One Church - Ephesians 4:8-16**

5. Because all believers are united in Christ as one, Paul referred to Psalm 68:18 to explain how this is possible. He pictured Christ as the conqueror ascending back to heaven. What has Christ done for His people to ensure this unity? (Ephesians 4:8)

6. Paul further explained what this meant in verses 9 & 10 which are in parentheses.
  - Where did Christ descend to:
  
  - Where did Christ ascend from and then return to?
  
  - In doing so, what has Christ done?
7. It is the very One who both descended and ascended that has given the church gifts. What five gifts did Paul list in verse 11?
8. What is the role of these particular gifts in the church, the Body? (Ephesians 4:12)
9. What is God's ultimate purpose by giving these gifts? (Ephesians 4:13)
10. The importance of these gifts to the unity of the body is illustrated by their absence. If these gifts are not used within the body, believers will remain as infants in their faith. What happens when a believer remains an infant or child in his/her faith? (Ephesians 4:14)
11. Rather than remain infants, what does Paul teach all believers to do? (Ephesians 4:15)

12. Paul referred to the church as a body, something everyone can relate to. He depicted Christ as the head. Using Ephesians 4:16

- How did Paul describe the role of Christ, head of the body?
- What is the goal for this body?
- How is that possible within this body?

**Reflect:**

In this short letter Paul has used two different illustrations to picture the church and the importance of unity within it.

- Illustration #1 - In Ephesians 2:16-22 Paul pictured the church as a building with Christ as the chief cornerstone and the believers as the individual stones united and built together. What purpose was he emphasizing with the building? (Ephesians 2:22)
- Illustration #2 - In Ephesians 4:1-16 Paul pictured the church as the body of Christ with Christ as the head. What purpose was Paul illustrating with the body? (Ephesians 4:12-13)

13. Looking at the church both as a building and a body, why do you think Paul was emphasizing the importance of unity?

14. How do you think that applies to the church today?