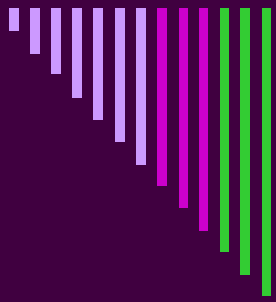


# **EPHESIANS**

## **Chapter 4:1-16**

**Jim Hoffman**

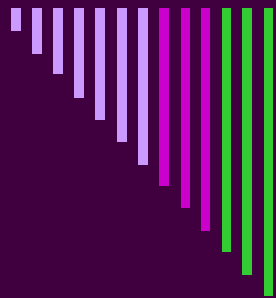
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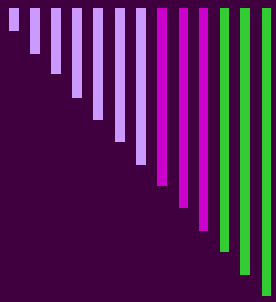
# Our Marching Orders

- We are told in Eph 3:20-21 that God wants to work in us using the same power that he used to resurrect his son.
  - There can be no doubt that God desires to work in and through his people. The next 3 chapters of this letter detail for us the work that he wants to do.
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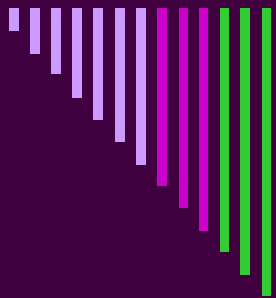
# Our Marching Orders

- Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. NIV
- Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. NIV



# Our Marching Orders

- For the most part we almost always know what we should do in life's situations.
- There may be some minor nuances of obedience that we struggle with, but if the truth were told, we do not struggle because we don't know what to do.
- We usually struggle over something much more basic than knowing; our struggles are almost always over wanting to do what is right, not discerning what is right.



# Our Marching Orders

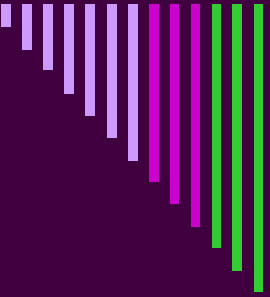
- So beginning with this lesson we will see some specific do's and don'ts of Christian living.
- This much I have found to be true; I usually end up doing what I want to do so I have come to realize that the key to living for Jesus is effecting my desire to live for Him.
- Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. NIV



Eph 4:1-2 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. . NIV

## □ Worthy of our calling;

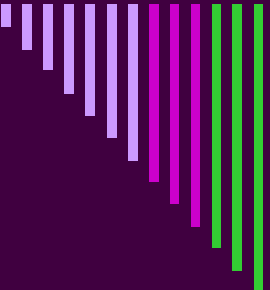
- 2 Tim 1:9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but **because of his own purpose and grace.** NIV
- 1 Thess 2:12 that you would walk worthy of God who **calls you into His own kingdom and glory.** NKJV



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- When our walk matches our talk we make the gospel more credible. (it works)
  - We have been called to holiness, therefore seek to live a holy life. A life that is sanctified (set apart) for His purposes.
  - The world does not need to see another religious person; the world does need to see a person who religiously pursues God.
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Eph 4:1-2 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. NIV

- Humble, gentle, patient, forbearing, and loving.
    - Humble because of my dependence on Christ
    - Gentle because that's how he treats me
    - Patient because he waited, and still waits, for me
    - Forbearing because of how he puts up with me
    - Loving because he has first loved us
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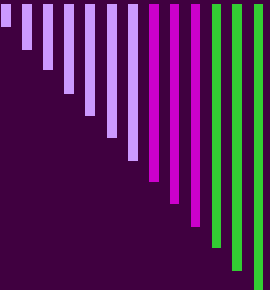
## Eph 4:3-6



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. NIV

- “The Greek construction of this passage clearly suggests that the Spirit creates the unity (who else can do this...we are too cranky and opinionated and arrogant and unloving to get it done ourselves) but we are to maintain that which the Spirit creates...In other words, we cannot create unity...only God can do that. We can inhibit it with attitudes, treating opinions as universal mandates for all, wrong or unbiblical thinking (not all claims that things are Biblical are actually Biblical), and a host of other things. So, what the Spirit does in numerous ways by elevating Scriptural truth i.e. about race, gender, truth, love, deference and the like...we are to clearly maintain. In order to do this, there must continue to be an open heart and mind to the truth and how it is applied.” .... *Pastor James Schambach*

## Eph 4:3-6



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- John 17:21-23 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe that You sent Me**. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and **that the world may know that You have sent Me**, and have loved them as You have loved Me. NKJV
- When believers are united, the world takes notice and, according to Jesus, they are convinced that the Father sent the Son.



## Eph 4:3-6

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- Here is how things so right can go so wrong.
    - Mark 8:22-25 (blind man healed with spit)
    - John 9:1-6 (blind man healed with spit and mud)
  
  - Two miraculous healings, but if these two guys ever spoke they might well have a doctrinal difference over mud.
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- Sometimes we have to set aside the mode of operation and simply see the grace that was extended.
  - 1 Cor 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. NIV
  - God allows Himself to operate as He chooses, but we struggle to give Him our permission. 😊
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- We are called to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
  
  - 125 times in the N.T. we see this word.
    - NT:1515 ei)rh/nh eirene (i-ray'-nay); probably from a primary verb eiro (to join); peace (literally or figuratively); by implication, prosperity: KJV - one, peace, quietness, rest, set at one again. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.
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## Eph 4:3-6

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- In these (4) verses, the word ‘one’ appears (7) times.
  - Imagine what you would look like, and how little you would get done, if the various parts of your body fought against each other.
  - Our bodies are made up of interdependent parts. My stomach cannot get full without my hands and mouth.
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## Eph 4:3-6

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- There is a call here for us to major on the majors instead of majoring on the minors.
  - Because of the ‘mud battle’ we already discussed, God had Paul address the important truths that we need to agree on.
  - Some things are worth fighting for, and others are not.
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Eph 4:3-6

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- I am firmly convinced that immersion is the proper mode of baptism, but if someone wants to stand up and publicly declare faith in Jesus Christ while being sprinkled I am not going to criticize.
  - However, if they want to declare that baptism, not Jesus, saves them then I will stand against that.
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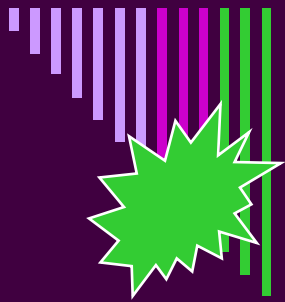


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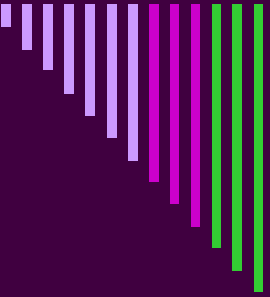
□ Oneness is not sameness.

- In the essentials, unity.
  - In the non-essentials, liberty.
  - In all things, charity.
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Eph 4:7-8 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." NIV

- Where was Jesus while his body was in the grave?
  - EPH 4: 7-10 (descended to lower parts)
  - LUKE 23:42-43 (in Paradise on crucifixion day)
  - JOHN 20:16-17 (not yet ascended)
  - LUKE 16:19-31 (across the gulf)
  - II Cor 5:8 (absent from body, present with the Lord)



Eph 4:7-8 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." NIV

- Where was Jesus while his body was in the grave?
    - It is clear that he went to Paradise on the day that he died. (the good side of Hades, not hell, because “it is finished”)
    - It is clear that on resurrection Sunday that he had not yet ascended to heaven.
    - It is clear that when he did ascend, sometime after the resurrection, he emptied out Paradise and led the OT saints to heaven.
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# God's Purposes for the Church.

- Eph 4:11 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. 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. NIV
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God gave gifted men to the church “to prepare God’s people for works of service”.

- Apostles and prophets gave us the New Testament as the foundation for the next two.
  - Evangelists are people (some ordained, some not) who are especially gifted and effective at explaining the gospel. (the only man identified as an evangelist was a deacon named Philip)
  - Pastor-teachers are people (some ordained, some not) that are gifted to shepherd and teach the saints.
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# God's Purposes for the Church.

- To serve the world around us.
    - Eph 4:12 “to prepare God's people for works of service” NIV
    - Find your gift and use it to help to build the kingdom.
    - What is your best advice to people for how to find their spiritual gift(s)?
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# God's Purposes for the Church.

- To help each other become like Christ.
    - Eph 4:12 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. NIV
    - Grow in our faith. (how?)
    - Grow in our knowledge. (how?)
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# God's Purposes for the Church

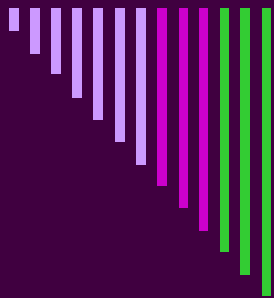
- To form an effective body for Christ's work.
    - Eph 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. NIV
    - We are to grow up and become a responsible and productive member of the community.
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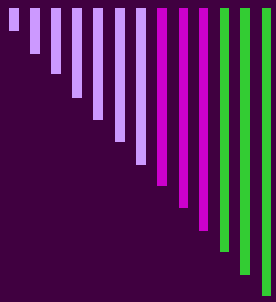
Eph 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. NIV

- Babies cry to get their own way even when they have no clue as to what is good for them.
  - Babies are easily distracted from the task at hand by the slightest sound, movement, or enticement.
  - Babies spend most of their days either sleeping or whining. (one is unproductive and the other is irritating)
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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. NIV

- Adults are willing to wait patiently for God's best and learn to look to him to supply what is best for us.
  - Adults are better at ignoring the distractions and enticements of the world.
  - Adults spend their time productively doing their part to help to build the kingdom.
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What do you think?

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