

***“THE UNITED COMMUNITY: LIVING IN THE BOND OF PEACE”***

**Ephesians 4:1-16**

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**Main Theme:** *To walk worthy of the call with which we've been called requires Christian unity and the unity of the Church under the Lordship of Christ.*

**Introduction**

- A. The Unity of the Church is Basic and Vital.
  - 1. Yet the long history of the church teaches us that our unity is in fact fragile.
  - 2. How then shall we live together?

**I. The Call to Unity (4:1-6)**

- A. Five Core Virtues (vv. 1-2)
- B. Unity and the Holy Spirit (v. 3)
- C. Trinitarian Basis of Our Unity (vv. 4-6)

**II. Gifts for Unity (4:7-12)**

- A. Jesus is God (vv. 7-10)
  - 1. The Importance of Psalm 68:18

- B. The Gifts of Christ (*v. 11*)
  
- C. The Church as an Orchestra (*v. 12*)

**III. The Contours of Unity (*4:13-16*)**

- A. Unity and Maturity Go Together (*vv. 13-14*)
  
- B. The Apologetic of Love (*vv. 15-16*)

**Conclusion/Application**

- A. The Bible sees the individual Christian's experience as equipping him or her for the sake of the whole body.
  - 1. The church does not exist for us as much as we exist for the church.
  
- B. There is but one institution, one family, that exists in this world that will also exist in the world to come and forever - it is the Church of Jesus Christ, His body, His fullness.