



# What's Next?

## The Blueprint For Unity

Ephesians 2:11-22 & Ephesians 4

*"In the Church its members get both the resources and the power to get along with people who are deeply different" - Tim Keller*

### A. The Reason For Unity [Ephesians 2:11-22]

### B. Maintaining Unity [Ephesians 4:1-3]

### C. Source of Unity [Ephesians 4:4-6]

### D. The Goal of Unity [Ephesians 4:11-16]

### E. Hindering Unity [Ephesians 4:22-32]

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Ephesians 4:2 and Ephesians 4:31-32. These verses give us a list of traits to develop or actions to stop. Which of these do you need to work on most when interacting with your brother and sister in Christ?
2. What is something in your life that may be a good thing that you are elevating to a level that God never intended, that creates separation between you and others?
3. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 Why is unity so important for the church in continuing the mission of Christ? In what ways could you be contributing to disunity in the body? What situations are hardest for you to maintain unity with others.
4. Spend time in prayer this week asking God to help you in these situations.

**Ephesians 2:11-22** <sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**Ephesians 4:1-6** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**Ephesians 4:25-32** Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.