



Rock Point Church  
Bill Bush | 2.2.2025

**BIG IDEA | United we're called.**

**Ephesians 4:1-6 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. <sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. <sup>4</sup> For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

<sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

**We are called to...**

**Unity, not uniformity.**

## Ephesians 4:7-16 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. <sup>8</sup> That is why the Scriptures say,

“When he ascended to the heights,  
he led a crowd of captives  
and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> Notice that it says “he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. <sup>10</sup> And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

<sup>11</sup> Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever

they sound like the truth. <sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. <sup>16</sup> He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

**We are called to...**

**Unity, not uniformity.**

**Service, not self.**

**"The strength of the wolf is the pack, and the strength of the pack is the wolf."**

**-Rudyard Kipling**

**"Popularity doesn't matter when you don't have a pack."**

**-S.E. Bush**

**Ephesians 4:17-32 (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given

themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> 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; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

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

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and

compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

### GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most about this week's sermon?
2. Pastor Bill said that anything placed before God can become an idol. What are some things in your life that you may unintentionally prioritize over God?
3. Paul emphasizes unity in the body of Christ, not uniformity (Ephesians 4:3-6). What do you think is the difference between the two? How can we maintain unity while embracing our individual differences?
4. What gifts do you believe God has given you? How can you use them to serve others and strengthen the body of Christ?
5. Read Ephesians 4:15. Why do you think it's for us to "speak the truth in love"? Share a time when either truth or love was missing from a conversation, and what impact it had on you or those involved.
6. What are some areas in your life where you see God transforming you? What does "putting on the new self" look like in daily life?
7. Read Ephesians 4:29. What are some practical ways we can encourage one another in our faith? What habits might you need to change to better reflect Christ in your speech?

