

"Membership Means Mission & Movement"

April 19, 2026

INTRO ... A Great Commission and a Strategy

Eph 4 ... A Strategy for Distributing GRACE!!

v. 11-16 ...Critical Mission Issues (There's a "reason/strategy" for Gifted Leaders]

- v. 12. ...so that "ministry can get done"! ...so that "the Body of Christ is BUILT UP"
- v. 13 ...so that "unity" is achieved! ...so that deep, meaningful, KNOWING of God is occurring ...so that growth, development, "maturity" is experienced! ...and we are moving further into "the fullness of Christ"!
- v. 14 ... so that we are NOT Vulnerable ... "no longer children" ...not "tossed by waves and winds of doctrine" ...not duped by "human cunning by craftiness in deceitful schemes"
- v. 15 ... so that we are "growing up in every way" —there's a Lot of "MOVEMENT" in God's Strategy!
- v. 16 ...so that "each part is working properly" —this is an "EACH PART" endeavor in a local church!

v. 1-11 ...Critical Contributors to the Mission

- **UNITY** (v. 1-6)

...If We love the Glory of God (the Purpose of God), then We have a high value for Unity—AND—We go to war with Disunity!

"The Bible teaches that surviving and thriving in a life of faith and love depends on Christians intentionally building each other in faith and stirring each other up to love. Without intentional faith-building togetherness we lose our zeal, drift from God, become hardened in the deceitfulness of sin, and if someone doesn't snatch us (James 5:19; Jude 23), we make shipwreck of our so-called faith and perish in unbelief." **John Piper**, "Battling Unbelief Together"

"Intentional faith-building togetherness"...that's a good description of "unity"!

Unity is not accidental or incidental. It doesn't just happen on its own. It is not some "coincidental meeting of our preferences or personalities or style! ...it is something we intentionally do!

...this type of unity promotes "surviving and thriving in a life of faith" and protects us from "losing zeal, drifting from God, and becoming hardened in the deceitfulness of sin, and possibly making shipwreck of our so-called faith"

Eph 4:1, 3 "I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been given" ...³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"

... "**EAGER**" (Gk. spoudazō; to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest ...denotes zealous effort and exerting themselves)

...UNITY is Related to STRATEGY ...When Paul Reviews strategy with the Ephesians—He thrusts unity to the front of their considerations! ...He will also do that with the Philippians

Php 1:27 "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving side by side for the faith of the gospel"

- **GRACE Distributed** (v. 7-11)

...Grace is not merely a theological term/concept, it is a 'spiritual commodity', a 'spiritual substance' that God sources and we TRANSFER to others.

? - Grace 'flows' through healthy spiritual contact. Am I transferring grace to others that God has placed me in contact with?

Eph 4:25-32

- What is "GRIEVING the HOLY SPIRIT"? (v. 30) ...Here, it's not associated with being "anti-Charismatic"!
 - ...v. 25 ... "unresolved anger" ... "anger expressed sinfully" ...v. 31 - "bitterness, clamor, malice"
 - ...v. 25, 29, 31 - Our Speaking to Each Other ... "falsehood" ... "corrupting talk that lacks grace" ... "slander"
- The Ministry of the Spirit IMPACTS THESE THINGS! ...or his ministry has been marginalized!

- **LEADERS** (v. 11-13) ..."Grace Distribution" is linked to A Healthy Relationship between Leaders & Church

What's at stake? ...GRACE DISTRIBUTION! ...*the grace that SAVES ...that strengthens ...that protects ...that comforts ...that encourages ...that empowers ...that heals ...that accomplishes ministry ...that teaches & counsels ...that pierces darkness ...that liberates captives ...that advances the kingdom of God ...that proclaims the glory of God!*

...v. 12-16 ...is at stake

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