

Our Life Together Ephesians 4:1-10

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”(In 9 saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)”

Our goal here today:

- **We are called to this walk together to fulfill God's purposes in history: The gospel going into all the earth.....nations discipled....the church growing to maturity before the coming of the Lord.**
- **This is only accomplished by the church....no one and nothing else**
- **This requires great relational maturity and unyielding unity.**
- **There are two forces always seeking to erode this: 1. our fleshly, sinful immaturity that breaks relationship. 2. The unseen demonic which is like a cancer among relationships.**
- **If we hope to accomplish God's purposes we must whip this or go home.**

1. **You have a calling which inspires how you live.** v1....This calling is for the while Body of Christ
2. **This calling is always linked to people in the Body of Christ.** This forces us to do the hard relational work. The absence of which indicates a lack of comprehending the calling V2

Bearing with one another in love

- A. **Humility**
- B. **Gentleness**
- C. **Patience**

3. **This relational work is evidence of a supernatural work: the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of peace.**

Galatians 5:19-26

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, **enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21** envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23** gentleness, **self-control**; against such things there is no law. **24** And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions

and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The absence of this supernatural relational work may indicate another spirit at work.

James 3: 13 -18 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is **earthly, unspiritual, demonic**. 16 **For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.** 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

This is the second warfront. The first is recapturing the lost...the second is bringing the saved into the Spirit-surrendered life and the Church to maturity.

4. The Seven Ones that rule the true faith

- A. One Spirit...filled!
- B. One Body...joined together!
- C. One Hope...fully possessed by God's big plan for history
- D. One Lord...Surrendered!
- E. One Faith ...Life altering, world changing truth.
- F. One Baptism...Buried!
- G. One God and Father....Family!...

5. Grace given to each of us because he descended and ascended. His resurrection power fills and empowers us. This though is only unlocked through yielding. "The way up is down"

6. He ascended because He will fill all things

v6 He is over all and in all. When we establish Jesus' Lordship in the life of others He is filling all things....all ministry has this end.

- **Conclusion:**
- **You are called into a team...the Body of Christ**
- **Your giftings are for that team**
- **Working as a team takes Holy Spirit infused character**
- **Your fleshly tendency is to break relationship and run from your God appointed team**
- **The devil's energy is devoted to destroy your relationship to that team**
- **This team, the Body of Christ, is central to God's work in the earth....aloofness to the Body of Christ is a barrier to your usefulness to God's purposes.**