

HOW CAN I LIVE THE LIFE I WANT?
“The Purpose of Gifts”

7/11/10

Ephesians 4:1-16

1. THE **PLEA** FOR UNITY IN THE SPIRIT: (vv. 1-3)

“Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.” (v. 3)

“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.” (v. 1)

A. **Humility** Creates Unity.

“Always be humble...”

B. **Gentleness** Creates Unity.

“Always be gentle...”

C. **Patience** Creates Unity.

“Be patient with each other...”

D. **Love** Creates Unity.

“Making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love...”

E. **Peace** Creates Unity.

“Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.”

2. THE **POWER** OF UNITY IN THE SPIRIT: (vv. 4-10)

“However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.” (v. 7)

“There is one body...”

“There is one Spirit...”

“There is one hope...”

“There is one Lord...”

“There is one faith...”

“There is one baptism...”

“There is one God and Father...”

“He is over all and in all and living through all.”

3. THE **PEOPLE** OF UNITY IN THE SPIRIT: (v. 11)

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church...”

“The Apostles

“The Prophets...”

“The Evangelists...”

The Pastor/Teachers...”

4. THE **PURPOSE** OF UNITY IN THE SPIRIT: (vv. 12-16)

“Their responsibility....”

A. We are to be **Equippers** of the People. (v. 12a)

B. We are to be **Builders** of the Church. (vv. 12b-16)

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

‘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.’