

The background of the top half of the slide features a dark teal color with faint, semi-transparent silhouettes of several people, likely in a church or community setting, engaged in conversation or prayer. The silhouettes are positioned behind the main text.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

The Keys to Biblical Community

Week 1: Love & Unity (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Ephesians 4:1-16

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.

Ephesians 4:1-16

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.”

⁹ (In 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.)

Ephesians 4:1-16

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Ephesians 4:1-16

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Outline

☐ *Christ calls us to grow up together in unity, maturity, and love.*

Three things we need to answer this call:

1. Foundational gospel convictions — the *unity* of the church
2. Intentional Spirit-empowered behaviors — the *way* of the church
3. Organic relational connections — the *life* of the church

A blurred, semi-transparent image of three people in conversation, overlaid on a dark blue background. The image is positioned in the upper half of the slide, behind the main title.

1. Foundational Gospel Convictions

The Unity of the Church (Ephesians 4:1-6)

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, 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.

1. Foundational Gospel Convictions

Application:

- Unity in the church is not about uniformity, conflict-avoidance, or surface-level niceness. Unity in the church is about Christ.

1. Foundational Gospel Convictions

Application:

- Our vision for the church must be rooted in our vision of ultimate reality.

FOREWORD BY TIMOTHY KELLER

BIBLICAL CRITICAL THEORY

How the Bible's Unfolding Story Makes Sense
of Modern Life and Culture



CHRISTOPHER
WATKIN

The Bible's picture of human beings is not as wheelers and dealers in the corporate boardroom, signing contracts with the gods in order to get ahead; instead, we are joyful children on Christmas morning, receiving unexpectedly lavish gifts from loving parents. Free gift, not contractual obligation, is at the heart of the Bible's picture of reality.

1. Foundational Gospel Convictions

Application:

- The reason to commit to the church is not because of our preferences, programs, or people. The reason is the gospel of Christ.

A blurred, dark blue-tinted background image showing three people in profile, engaged in conversation. The person on the left is a woman with long dark hair, the middle person is a man with short hair, and the person on the right is a man with short hair wearing a cap. They appear to be in a meeting or discussion.

2. Intentional Spirit-Empowered Behaviors

The Way of the Church (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Ephesians 4:1-3

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.

2. Intentional Spirit-Empowered Behaviors

Application:

- Take personal inventory: why do you tend to resist deeper commitment to the church?

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2. Intentional Spirit-Empowered Behaviors

Application:

- As followers of Jesus, we are called to embody the way of grace by loving one another.



3. Organic Relational Connections

The Life of the Church (Ephesians 4:7-16)

3. Organic Relational Connections

The pattern:

- Grace (v. 7) [?] Gifts (vv. 8-11) [?] Growth (vv. 12-16)

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Ephesians 4:15-16

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

3. Organic Relational Connections

The pattern:

- Grace (v. 7) [?] Gifts (vv. 8-11) [?] Growth (vv. 12-16)

3. Organic Relational Connections

Application:

- Don't be a disconnected part of the body. Don't be a consumer. Don't pretend to belong while remaining fake.
- Instead, commit and connect. Be equipped and serve. Build up the body in love.

Summary

☐ *Christ calls us to grow up together in unity, maturity, and love.*

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