

**First Love: A Deeper Understanding of Church**  
**From the Book of Ephesians**  
**Northern Virginia Church of Christ Fall 2017**  
*Teachers: Brett Kreider / Mark Templer*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Memory Verse</b>
October 1	Ephesians 1: Restore Awe	Ephesians 1:18
October 8	Ephesians 2: Get Grace	Ephesians 2:10
October 15	Ephesians 3: Behold the Bride	Ephesians 3:10
<b>October 22</b>	<b>Ephesians 4: The Battle for Unity</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:15</b>
October 29	Ephesians 5: The Song of Life	Ephesians 6:18
November 5	Ephesians 6/Revelation 2: First Love	Test

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:15, NIV)*

**Background: Acts 20 – Paul in Troas and Miletus with the Ephesian Elders**

What do you learn about Paul from this passage?

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*Paul was preparing them for the battle for unity.*

**Unity** (Strong’s 1775: ἐνότης or henotes) “the God-produced unity (oneness) between believers – i.e., the harmony from sharing likeness of nature with the Lord.” In Ephesians: *The author of unity (1:10,4:6) is one God (4:6), one Spirit (4:4), and one Lord (4:5). His goal is to bring all things in heaven and on earth in unity under Christ (1:10). He destroyed the barriers between divisive factions (2:14-16), creating one family (5:31) or body (4:13,25) out of two. He commands us to make every effort to be unified (4:3).*

**Unity Meter**

*One Lord* – “Jesus is Lord”

- Are you united with Christ (a Christian)? Yes? Add 100; No – Pray! \_\_\_\_\_

For the following questions: add 10 for a yes and subtract 10 for a no

*Completely humble*

- Do you have a consistent discipling relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

*One Body*

- Would you describe yourself as “devoted” to meeting with Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

*One God*

- Did you share a scripture in your home this week? \_\_\_\_\_

For the following questions: subtract 10 for a yes and add 10 for a no

*Patient, bearing with one another*

- Is there anyone you have an attitude toward or haven’t forgiven? \_\_\_\_\_

*One Spirit*

- Was there a time this week where you didn’t listen to the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

## Devotional Thoughts from Ephesians 4: The Battle for Unity!

### Walk the Path to Unity (v.1-6)

Treasure unity *“make every effort”*

- The biggest threat = Us
- Decision: Will I promote unity?

Value others

- *Completely humble and gentle*
- *Patient, bearing with one another in love*
- *Figure out how to love one another*

*“How could we ever disparage another Christian in whom the Spirit of God rests?”  
“the primary enemy Paul attempts to disarm is within the church – we are our own worst enemy”*

*(First Love)*

### Use God’s Gifts for Unity (v.7-13)

*God’s plan: give each of us the gifts required to build up the body of Christ*

*Leaders train us to use our gifts to*

- *Promote unity in the church*
- *Mature each other*
- *To become more like Christ*

*“our unity with the rest of the body not only leads to our maturity, but also helps us achieve what God intends in our lives.”*

*(First Love)*

### Get in The Battle (v.14-24)

Speak the Spirit of Truth

- *Scheming men stir up a spirit of disunity*
- *Speak the truth in love – that is how we mature!*

Sense the Slippery Slope

- *See the destructiveness of worldly living*
- *The enemy of unity is our compromise*

See the Man in the Mirror

- Christ cleanses even our perversions
- Speak the truth to yourself – the bad and the good: *He washed your mind with a new attitude that helped you pursue a righteous relationship with God who made you holy. (First Love)*

*“compromise is an invitation for Satan to gain control over a part of our life.”*

*(First Love)*

### Put Off Self, Put On Unity (v.25-33)

Unity requires us to change to be the kind of person who works well with others!

- Time to Stop Lying
- Time to work through your Anger
- Time to be a Giver
- Time to Speak Life
- Time to Forgive



**Note: the focus is most often on the unity of the body, not on the individual. You is plural.**

**Reflection** – Take a few moments to think about how you can make every effort to keep unity:

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