

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**EPHESIANS 4****Ephesians 4**

The chapter opens with the apostle, as a prisoner because of the Lord Jesus, sharing a message for everyone at Ephesus to "get along" and to walk in unity as everyone must recognize the differences within the Body of Christ, the Church. Paul is calling for unity, not uniformity. There is a big difference. Unity recognizes differences among us in gifting and various ministries. God did not make us alike on purpose. What a bland and vanilla church it would be if everyone was gifted and served in the same capacity, not to mention the far more important aspect of a totally ineffective ministry it would be. God has placed all of us together into one body and has given gifts to the church, which are named in v.11, and the purpose given in v.12. God wants to equip His body to serve Him and serve one another.

The emphasis shifts in vv. 17ff, as it begins to instruct the believers about their attitude toward each other and the world around them.

"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God,

because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. (Ephesians 4:17-18)

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:25-32)

ON THE WAY

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, thank You for my brothers and sisters that You have brought into my life. Thank You for making us all different. Please enable me to be filled with Your Spirit, that I might treat them with love and speak well of them or not say anything at all. Amen