

**Intro:** When Darlene and I were first married she moved into the house I was in, provided by the church I was serving  
Had one of those huge AC units made for 2-3 rooms. Florida, August, turn up high, close the door!

Wake up in the morning and there would be water running down the windows! We can do this one or two ways!  
Building a new relationship takes some give and take! That is true with marriages, relationships...and Churches!  
As we enter into the reality of the merger we are all going to learn some things about one another.  
Some we will like...some...maybe not so much! But, as we learn to love and respect one another I believe God do great things.

That is what Paul is talking to us about in our passage from Ephesians this morning. Eph 4:1-16 Pg 828  
He tells us that there are 4 Actions we need to take in order to knit our hearts together in a strong spiritual relationship

### 1. Live Worthy.

Vs 1-2

Paul has a very distinctive way of writing. When he sends a letter to a church almost always divides easily onto two parts.

- a. *What God has done for you!* Ch 1-3 Vs 1:1-10 Paul doesn't stop for 3 chapters! Longest sentence in Gk NT
- b. *How you should live in response to God's blessing in your life.* Ch 4-6

Then he says: **LIVE WORTHY!** Lit = *Bring up the other Beam on the Scale!!!!* Equal Weight How should we do that?

- a. **Humble:** Lit= *With all lowliness of mind* (Not thinking too much [or too often!] of yourself!
- b. **Gentle:** Lit=*With Gentleness, to not be easily be angered or irritated*
- c. **Patient:** Lit=*Long mindedness or long-suffering* Don't let someone/something get on your last nerve!!!
- d. **Bear with** Lit=*to put up with; or to bear with; or to support one another*
- e. **Every Effort** Lit=*be quick or diligent to stand guard over the unity* Go out of your way to keep unity!

**ILLUS:** Premarital Counseling: Idealistic Distortion: "Rose colored Glasses" Love is Blind!

We can't be that way in the church...Instead, notice what Paul told us: Choose to live differently!

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* 1 Pet 2:9

### 2. Live United.

Vs 3-6

We are to strive to show unity of ACTION because it reflects the spiritual unity that is the reality of all those who know Christ  
Paul helps us understand that by running through a litany of 7 very specific things that unite us spiritually

- **One Body:** Universal Church: Though we may meet in 100 different places. One Last week (4!)
- **One Spirit:** We share the same Holy Spirit. He unites us. When He is in my heart and your heart we Connected
- **One Hope:** We are all looking forward to the same thing: We are waiting for Christlikeness: Transformation
- **One Lord:** We all name the name of Jesus and look to Him as Lord (Master and ruler of our life)
- **One Faith:** Those who know Jesus share a common belief that is through His Blood that we know God
- **One Baptism:** When we come to know Jesus we are all baptized (placed into) the body of Christ (Spiritual)
- **One Father:** We are all a part of the same Family and share the same Father:

**ILLUS:** There is an old hymn that sums it all up!

*I'm so glad im a part of the family of God, I've been washed in the fountain, Cleansed by His blood,  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, For I'm part of the family, the family of God.*

### 3. Live Busy Serving God

Vs 7-13

It isn't enough to get along with one another, holding hands and singing Kum-ba-Ya as we wait for Jesus to return

Paul says, we need to be busy! God has something for us to actually DO what we wait! Look at what he says:

To each one of us grace has been given...(parenthesis) (different kinds of grace) then He says...WHAT (Busy) WHY (Mature)

Don't get lost in the explanation: Here is what I want you to see:

- a. **Grace:** "It originates with Him!"
- b. **Different:** "Some get one gift...some another...Same thing Peter says about spiritual gifts"
- c. **Pastor's** "To prepare" Lit=*to furnish; to put in proper place; to equip (give you tools u need)*
- d. **People** "Work of Ministry" Lit = *Serving God and others: Pastors equip, People Minister*
- e. **Result:** MATURITY Lit = *to build up the body of Christ! To build together; to construct*

People are often confused: It is the work of the PASTORS to EQUIP And it is the work of the PEOPLE to Minister! (Video)

When we all fulfill our responsibilities then the God is glorified, the community is served, the body is strengthened; all mature!

Now, with that said...Let me Describe for you 4 GREAT OPPORTUNITIES!

We have said we are going to be: "BetterTogether" I want us as a church to live that out and let it be REAL, Not Tag Line!

1. CityServe: Oct 15
2. Trunk R Treat Halloween
3. First Responder: Thanksgiving
4. Christmas Eve Christmas

With EACH ONE we have Postcards going out to 10k homes, Along with Social Media, Handout Cards, Signs

First UP: CityServe: We need 2 things: 1. We need Projects 2. We need Participation

#### 4. Live Strong

Vs 14-16

When we live the way Jesus calls us to live then we grow Spiritually!

- Live Worthy
- Live United
- Live Busy
- Finally, we are to LIVE STRONG!!!

Vs 14: THEN we will no longer be infants! We will grow up...and grow strong!

Paul says: We will *GROW UP!* Lit = We will grow into a mature adult...become the person God INTENDED us to be!

*To enlarge, to increase, to grow*

We will, in the words of Vs 1: Be WORTHY! Our live will “weigh in” in such a way that it is in keeping with God’s work!

We will be:

- Joined together: Lit = *Perfectly fit together* Illus: Darlene and I looking at furniture (Dovetailed Joints!)
- Growing together Lit = *Perfectly held together:* Illus: Those joints, perfectly made, hold the drawer together
- Building one another & Kingdom together! Lit=*Every Part contributing/supplying what it has to give, build each other*

**ILLUS:** A church grows stronger when every single member is contributing what God has entrusted to their care

We are stewards together of God’s gifts. You have what I need. I have what you need. Together we grow strong!

**CONCL:** This merger that we have undertaken is an incredible opportunity.

I believe that God is going to do something amazing in the days ahead, but that will not happen automatically

We have to do our part! WE have to participate with what God is doing in order to see His very best in our life and church

- Live Worthy: Our Actions need to “Weigh In” with His!
- Live United: Be not just physically united,  
That is easy...We have to be Spiritually United Connected at the heart!  
When we pray, study together, Worship together, Fellowship together, Connects Us
- Live Busy: When we serve God together, Our lives and our hearts are knit together  
CityServe is an AWESOME opportunity to have your life connected to others
- Live Strong: As we do those things...  
We will become what God intends us to be

Then God will knit us together as one.

Let me issue you this challenge: Participate in 2 or 3 of the 4

**And You Will Grow, Kingdom Be Built Up**

**Heart will be knit with the hearts of others**

**Our Church will TRULY become ONE**

**We will be Testimony to what GOD can do when people walk with Him!**

Start TODAY...With CityServe....Sign up...Know of a project let us know