

FBC
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
DURHAM, NC

GAMMA22

GAMMA
SERIES

EPHESIANS

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE, EMPOWERED BY PEACE

STUDY 12 MAINTAINING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 4:1-6



Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

THE STRUCTURE OF EPHESIANS

The Glory and Grace of God

The Peace of God in the church

Theological

Practical

Ephesians 1

Ephesians 2

Ephesians 3

Ephesians 4

Ephesians 5

Ephesians 6

Prayer for Power

Prayer for
Spiritual
Transformation

Living and working out spiritual
transformation in the church

Living and working out spiritual
transformation in the church

EPHESIANS 4

1. Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit v1-6
2. Utilizing Diversity to build up Unity v 7-16
3. New Life and New Integrity v 17-25
4. Overcoming Anger and Bitterness v 25-32



Gods Love

Christs indwelling

Fullness of God

MAINTAINING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT


A. Motivation

B. Behaviour

C. Foundation

CALLING

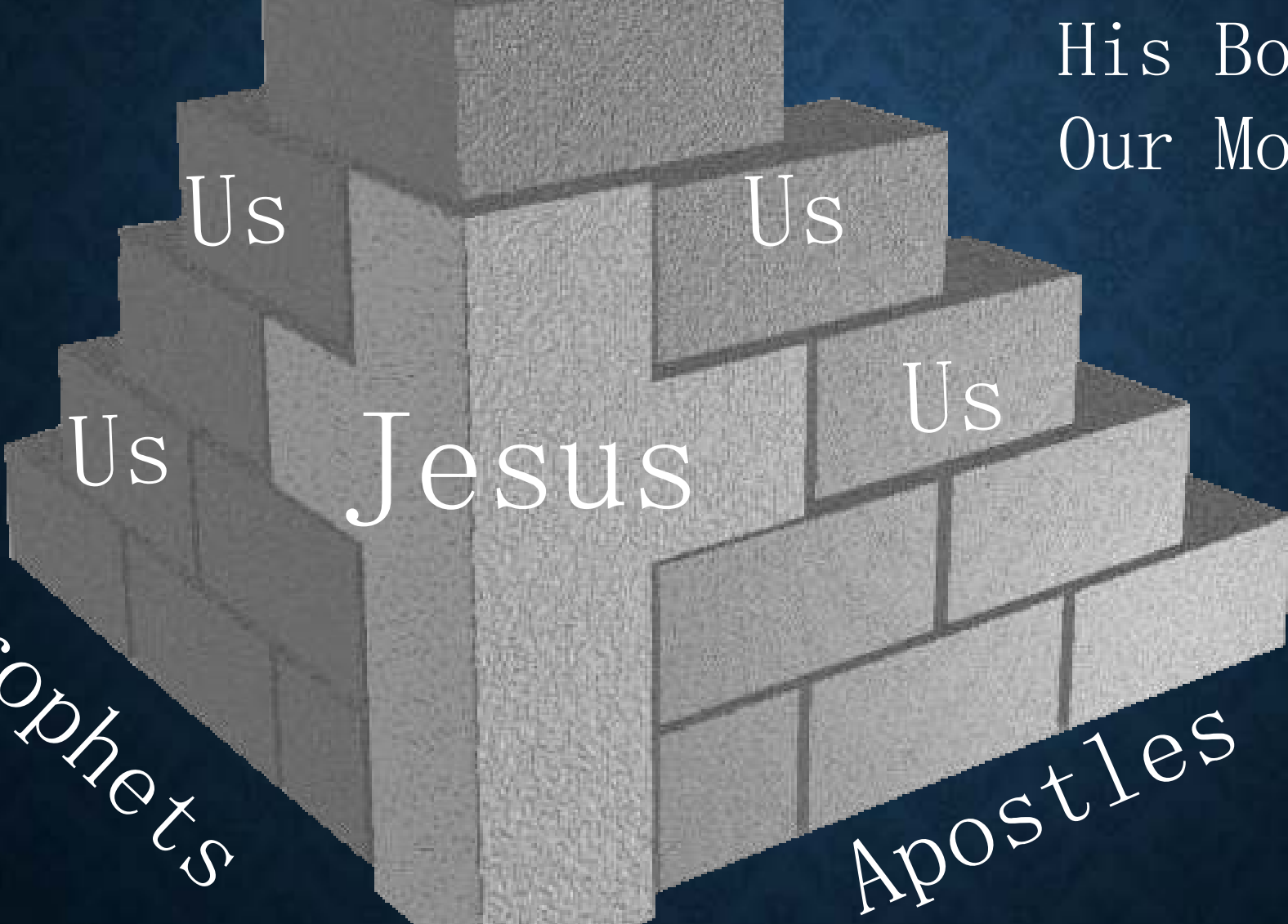
Ephesians 4:1 (ESV) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,



Paul is paying the price for his calling

CHRIST PAID THE PRICE

Ephesians 2:14-16 (ESV) For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross thereby killing the hostility.



His Body
Our Motivation

Us

Us

Us

Jesus

Us

Prophets

Apostles

MAINTAINING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

A. Motivation

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BEHAVIOUR THAT LIVES UP TO CALLING

Ephesians 4:1-6 (ESV) 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.

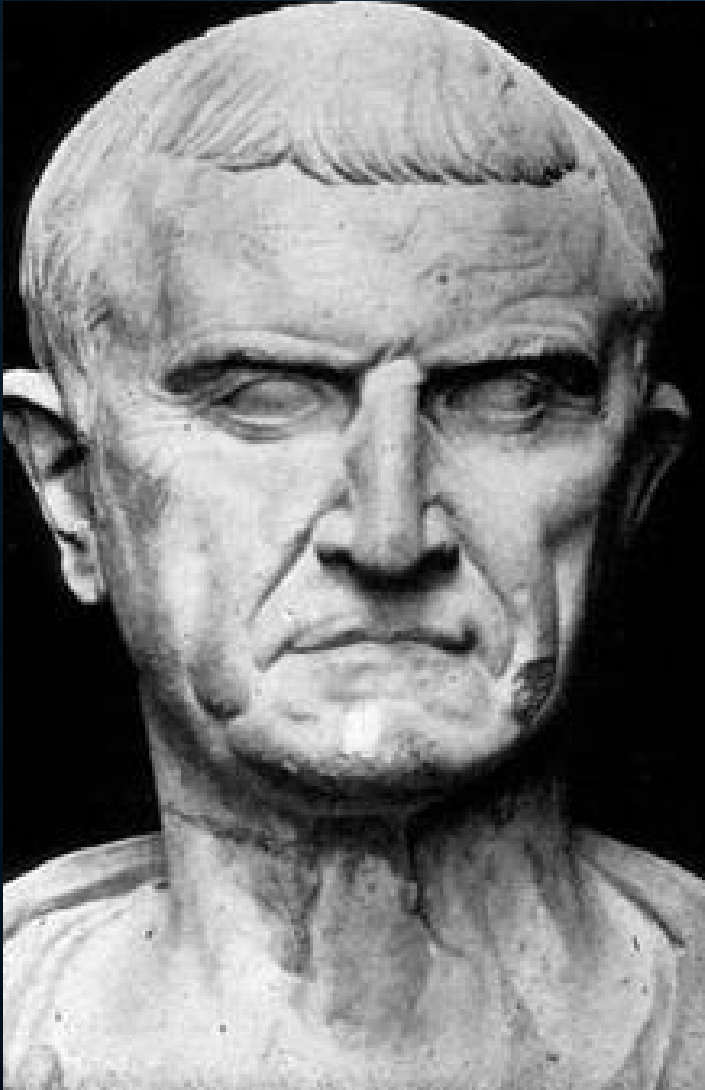
CONDUCT OF UNITY

- humility
- gentleness,
- patience,
- bearing with one another in love

Fruit of the Spirit

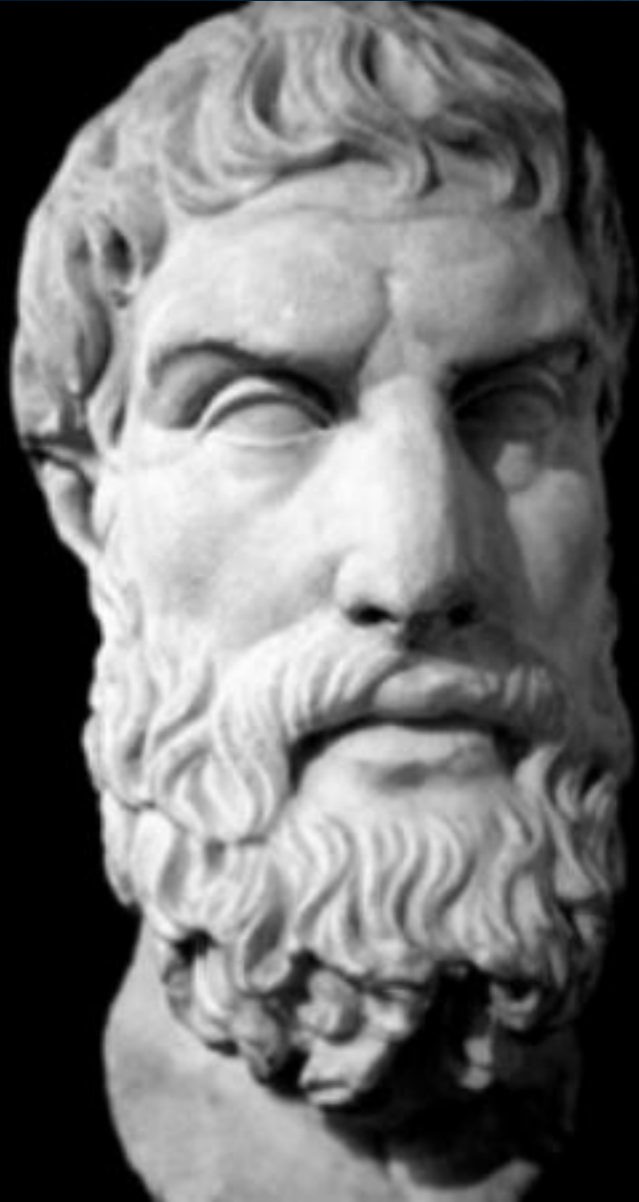
Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

HUMILITY –WORD DID NOT EXIST BEFORE NT TIMES



- Emperor Galba called gentle by Praetorian Guard who later killed him
- Greek idea ‘the crouching submissiveness of a slave’ . Means lowly or base
- Jewish Idea different Isaiah 66:2

STOIC PHILOSOPHER EPICTETUS



*First among the
qualities not to be
commended*



INWARD LOOKING

- We all want self glory
- Our reference point is self
- Work
 - Adequate pay
 - Adequate satisfaction
 - Convenient commute
- Family
 - Meet my needs
- Public
 - When is my turn

A man in profile, looking thoughtful with his hands clasped. He is wearing a grey zip-up hoodie. The background is dark.

UPWARDS OUTWARDS

the humble
recognition of
the worth and
value of other
people,

to elevate God
and encourage
others

PECKING ORDER



PROBLEM OF PRIDE IN A GROUP



They demand or suck up respect and give none to others

The people we immediately, instinctively like, and find it easy to get on with, are the people who give us the respect we consider we deserve, while the people we immediately, instinctively dislike are those who treat us like dirt



CS LEWIS

Humility is not
thinking less of your
self , its thinking of
yourself less

PROPER FOCUS ON OTHERS

- Abandon selfish ambition but does not deny that you have legitimate interests as well
- Also look to the interests of others
- Don' t overestimate yourself but lean towards regarding others more highly than yourself
- Take the attitude of Jesus which is to serve sacrificially

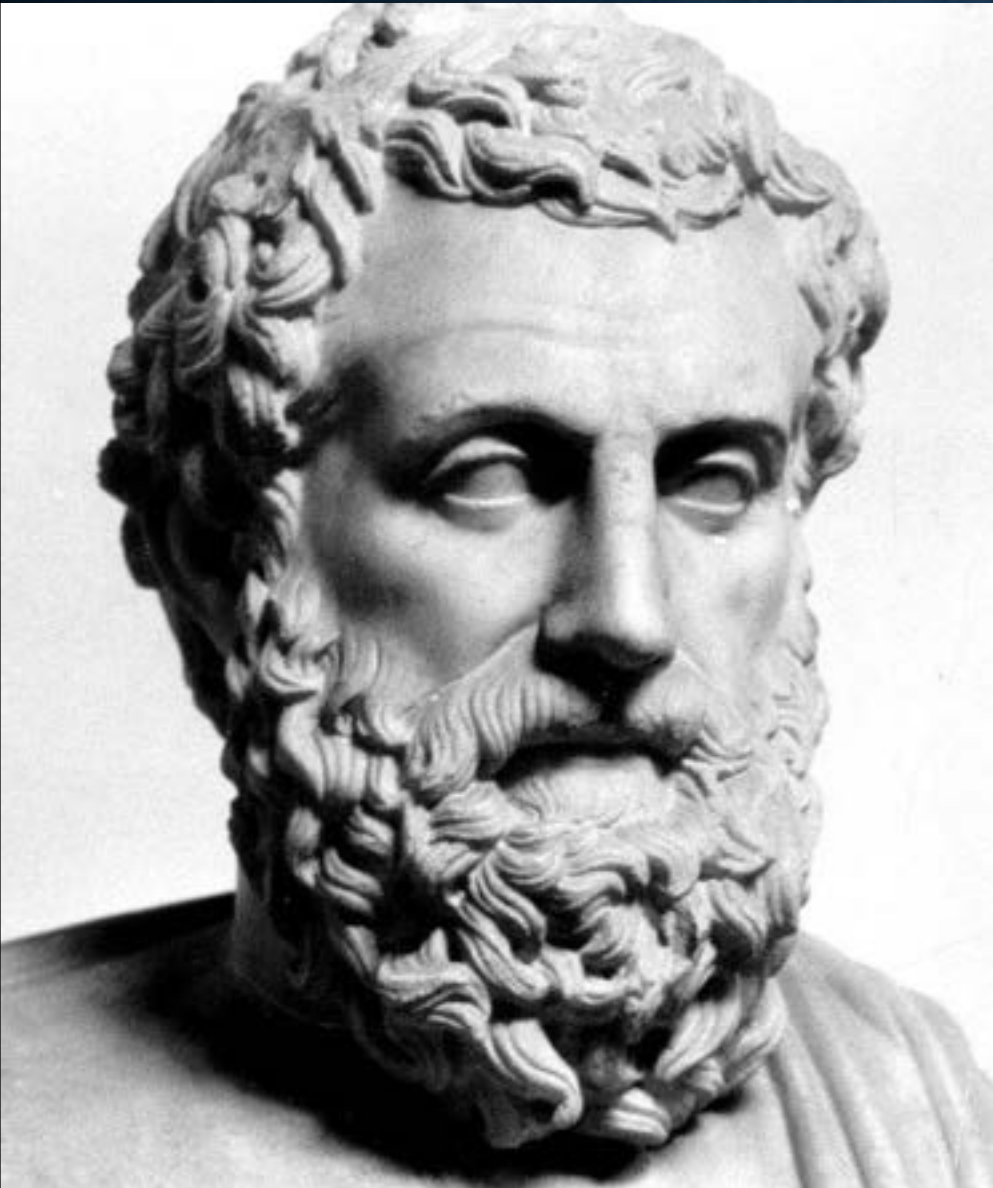
PROPER PERSPECTIVE OF WHO WE ARE

- Understand your achievements and talents were all given by God and bear no personal merit
- Understand each are given different proportions of faith hence we do not compare but seriously consider the proportion our own faith and talents and be responsible and thankful for them and not allow them to puff us up

God has assigned.

CONDUCT OF UNITY

- humility
- gentleness, Meekness
- patience,
- bearing with one another love



ARISTOTLE GENTLENESS (MEEKNESS)

- The golden mean
- ‘the mean between being too angry and never being angry at all’
- ‘the absence of the disposition to assert personal rights, either in the presence of God or of men

GENTLENESS OF THE STRONG, WHOSE STRENGTH IS UNDER CONTROL.
IT IS THE QUALITY OF A STRONG PERSONALITY WHO IS
NEVERTHELESS MASTER OF HIMSELF AND THE SERVANT OF OTHERS



Conscious exercise of self control..exhibiting conscious choice of gentleness as opposed to use of power for retaliation



Taming of animals

- ‘the meek man thinks as little of his personal claims, as the humble man of his personal merits’ .
- The man who is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time

MOSES

- Numbers 12:3 (ESV) Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.
- Exodus 32:19–20 (ESV) And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.
20 He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

JESUS

Matthew 11:29 (ESV) Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and
lowly in heart, and you will find rest
for your souls



WELL TRAINED ...ANGRY AT INTRUDERS
NEVER ANGRY AT MASTER OR HIS FAMILY



CONDUCT OF UNITY

- humility
- gentleness, Meekness
- patience,
- bearing with one another love

PATIENCE (MAKROTHYMIA)

- *to be patient is to endure discomfort without complaint*



self-control, humility, and generosity

COMPLAINTS TO GOD

- Psalms 44:24 (ESV) Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?
- Psalms 142:2–3 (ESV) I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.³ When my spirit faints within me, you know my way. In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

"EGOCENTRIC PREDICAMENT,"

Only my discomfort



My own
thoughts
Own needs
Frustrations
Not aware of
how hard
others are
working to
control
themselves



Each person
different
temperament

CONDUCT OF UNITY

- humility
- gentleness, Meekness
- patience,
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ISAIAH 42:13-15 (ESV)

The Lord goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes. 14 For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. 15 I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools

THE NATURAL DYSFUNCTION OF SIN

Gossip.

Self-serving
church
members

Partisan
spirit



Hypercritical
spirit

Power groups

Silent and
fearful
majority

Titus 3:10–11 (ESV) As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

*Unity for the sake of unity is not Biblical unity at all.
Unity for the sake of purity is what the Bible commands.
That is, our unity should be applied in an exclusive
way—in order to preserve others and ourselves as a true
and faithful body*

Joe Towns , Matthias MEDIA 2011

MAINTAINING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

A. Motivation

B. Behaviour

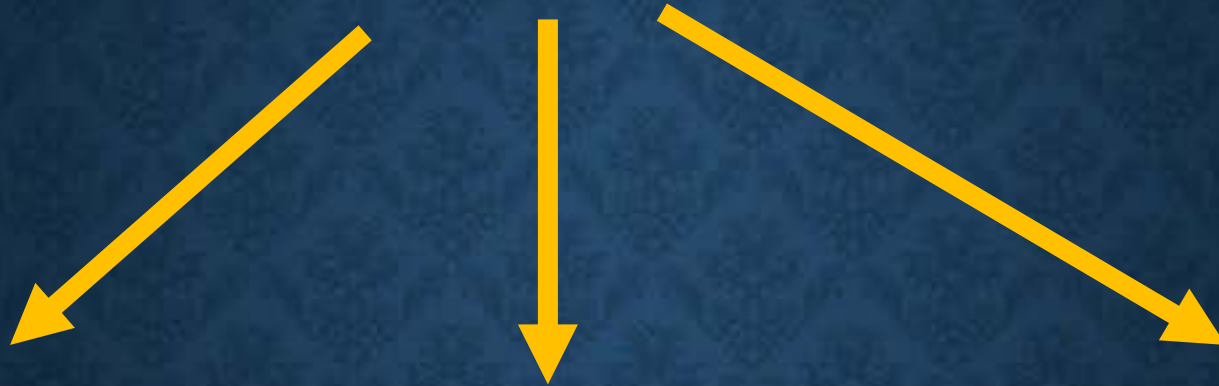
C. Foundation

ONTOLOGICAL UNITY

We are not asked to create the unity but to maintain it

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

One



Hope

Baptism

Faith

Body

Spirit

God and
Father

Lord

In all the critical factors in our spiritual life we are all t



DNA

DNA

gettyimages®
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Holy
Spirit

No expression of the unity



One family

Expression of the unity



One family

Isaiah 11:1-2 (ESV) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him

Isaiah 11:6 (ESV) The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.



DA CARSON...COMMON LOVE

“The church is...made up of natural enemies. What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income levels, common politics, common nationality, common accents, common jobs, or anything else of that sort. Christians come together...because they have all been saved by Jesus Christ...They are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus’ sake.”

IRRESPECTIVE OF HISTORY



Spiritual rebirth, adoption, blessings

IRRESPECTIVE OF BACKGROUND

The person former drug addict and gangster now saved Other religious all their lives



THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF UNITY

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

God's universal
sovereignty

God's universal immanence..presence and
action

OUR PURPOSE HIS VISION

Ephesians 3:10 (ESV) so that through the church
the manifold wisdom of God might now be made
known to the rulers and authorities in the
heavenly places