






www.brethrentraining.org 

Growth in unity


 Ephesians 4:1-6
Jonathan Lamb

© 2018 Brethren Training Network 2

www.brethrentraining.org 


Calling 4:1

•4:1 'As a prisoner of the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.'

www.brethrentraining.org 


Calling 4:1

•1:10 'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen ...'

www.brethrentraining.org 

Calling 4:1

•1:10 'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen ...'
•2:15 'His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity.'

www.brethrentraining.org 

Calling 4:1

•1:10 'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen ...'
•2:15 'His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity.'
•2:19 'You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people.'

Calling 4:1

www.betheltraining.org

• *'Paul sees an alienated humanity being reconciled, a fractured humanity being united, even a new humanity being created.'*

John Stott, BST Ephesians

Calling 4:1

www.betheltraining.org

'The church thus appears to be God's pilot scheme for the reconciled universe of the future. The uniting of Jews and Gentiles was God's masterpiece of reconciliation, and gave promise of a time when not Jews and Gentiles only, but all mutually hostile elements in creation would be united in that same Christ.'

F F Bruce

Calling 4:1

www.betheltraining.org

• 2:14 *'for he himself is our peace.'*

Character 4:2

www.betheltraining.org

• 4:2 *'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.'*

Character 4:2

www.betheltraining.org

• Humility – lowliness

Character 4:2

www.betheltraining.org

• Humility – lowliness
• Gentleness – meekness

Character 4:2

www.bvthebaning.org 

- Humility – lowliness
- Gentleness – meekness
- Patience – forbearance

Character 4:2

www.bvthebaning.org 

'Character is, sadly, greatly undervalued today in so much church life and activity. We'd rather work out the best techniques, formulate successful strategies, and celebrate (or criticise) performance. We look on the outside and assess people by 'how much they are doing' and pay much less attention to what kind of character they have become or are becoming ...'

Character 4:2

www.bvthebaning.org 

'But look at the qualities in Paul's list of fruit of the Spirit. They do not focus on what kind of performance we can achieve, but what kind of person we are.' Chris Wright

Conviction 4:4-6

www.bvthebaning.org 

•4:4-6: *'There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.'*

Conviction 4:4-6

www.bvthebaning.org 

- There is one Spirit

Conviction 4:4-6

www.bvthebaning.org 

- There is one Spirit
- There is one Lord

Conviction 4:4-6

www.bvthebaning.org 

- There is one Spirit
- There is one Lord
- There is one Father

Conviction 4:4-6

www.bvthebaning.org 

'The unity of the church is as indestructible as the unity of God himself. It is no more possible to split the church than it is to split the Godhead.'

John Stott

Concern 4:3

www.bvthebaning.org 

•4:3 *'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.'*

Concern 4:3

www.bvthebaning.org 

•4:3 *'Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of the Spirit in the binding power of peace.'*
Amplified NT

Concern 4:3

www.bvthebaning.org 

•4:3 *'Be eager and strive earnestly to guard and keep the harmony and oneness of the Spirit in the binding power of peace.'*
Amplified NT

•*'Yours is the initiative! Do it now!'* Karl Barth

Concern 4:3

www.bvthebaning.org 

•*'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'*
Gal 3:28

Concern 4:3

www.bvthebaning.org 

‘...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.’
Eph 4:13

Concern 4:3

www.bvthebaning.org 

‘...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.’ Eph 4:13
‘when each part is working properly.’ Eph 4:16

Some implications

www.bvthebaning.org 

- The need for a doctrine of difference

Some implications

www.bvthebaning.org 

- The need for a doctrine of difference
 - Romans 14 and 15
 - Don't exclude, don't condemn, don't belittle
 - Be positive, be clear about what matters, be united in essentials

Some implications

www.bvthebaning.org 

- The need for Christ-like character

Some implications

www.bvthebaning.org 

- The need for Christ-like character
 - More humility, less arrogance

Some implications

www.bvthearting.org 

- The need for Christ-like character
 - More humility, less arrogance
 - More gentleness, less anger

Some implications

www.bvthearting.org 

- The need for Christ-like character
 - More humility, less arrogance
 - More gentleness, less anger
 - More private, less public

Some implications

www.bvthearting.org 

- The need for fellowship, support and mediation

Some implications

www.bvthearting.org 

- The need for urgency

Some implications

www.bvthearting.org 

- The need for urgency
 - It is vital to be true to our calling
 - It is vital to align ourselves with God's eternal purpose
 - It is vital to honour the work of Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - It is vital for the credibility of Christian witness

Some implications

www.bvthearting.org 

'... so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Eph 3:10

Some implications

www.brethrentraining.org 

'... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deietful scheming ...'

Some implications

www.brethrentraining.org 

'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. From him, the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.'

Eph 4:13-16

