

**Lesson 13: Ephesians 4:1-32**  
**Building and Maintaining Unity within the Family of God**

- I. I therefore, **a prisoner** for the Lord, urge you
- II. ...to **walk** in a manner **worthy of the calling**
- III. ...with all humility and gentleness with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain **the unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

“Growing in Christ-like humility, gentleness and patience will enable us gradually to achieve Paul’s twin aims for church communities: first, ‘bearing with one another in love’ means accepting the failures and flaws of others because we love them: and second, making ‘every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace’ means protecting the ‘unity of the bond of the Spirit’, which is the special togetherness that the Holy Spirit creates in a congregation. This is our shared experience of adoption into God’s family for peace with God and peace with each other in Christ.”

Richard Coekin, *Ephesians For You*

IV.



**Spiritual Immaturity**

- Tossed by The Wind (infant)
- Self-Centered/Selfish (toddler)
- Unsteady/Not Enduring (child)

**Spiritual Maturity**

- Discerning
- Selfless, Serves Others
- Steadfast/Faithful

- V. Gifts were given to **equip** the saints for the work of **ministry**, for the **building up** of the body of Christ until we all attain to the **unity** of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God!

- VI. ... To be renewed in the spirit of your **minds**, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- VII. ...Let no corrupting talk come out of your **mouths**, but only as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- VIII. ...Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own **hands** so that they may have something to share with anyone in need.