

## Ephesians 4:1-6

# *Where the Rubber Meets the Road*

*"Commitment is doing the thing you said you were going to do  
long after the mood you said it in has left you."*

Because of all that God has done for us

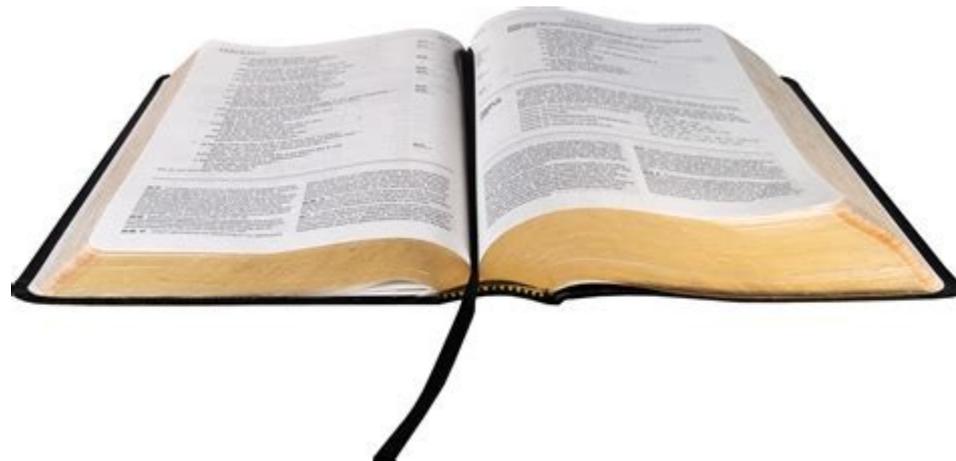
## Ephesians 4:1-6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you 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.



As a prisoner for the Lord, then,

Why does Paul remind us that he is a prisoner for the Lord?



I urge you

This shows it is no 'take it or leave it' matter  
It is vitally important to us as believers



to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

It's about living it out – it isn't about earning God's love

Literally it says 'to worthily walk'

We have a high calling by God to live a life that measures up to the standards he calls us to be.

How can we achieve this?

This is what being a Christian is meant to look like.



to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

This was a calling you received.  
It is an unearned gift of God's grace.

He called me long before I heard, but one day – I heard and responded in faith – to be one of the Lord's children and to grow to maturity as a follower of the Lord Jesus.



## Be completely humble and gentle;

It's firstly about our character then our actions.  
No boasting even though we have such a high calling.  
A humble attitude is not having a poor self-image – but a realistic one. cf. Likeness to Jesus. Matthew 11:29  
We are totally dependent on God's help.  
Gentleness is how we express ourselves to others – not being pushy or domineering



be patient,

Rome wasn't built in a day!

Are we patient with ourselves?

Patient in how others are doing?

Life is a process and hopefully a progress too.

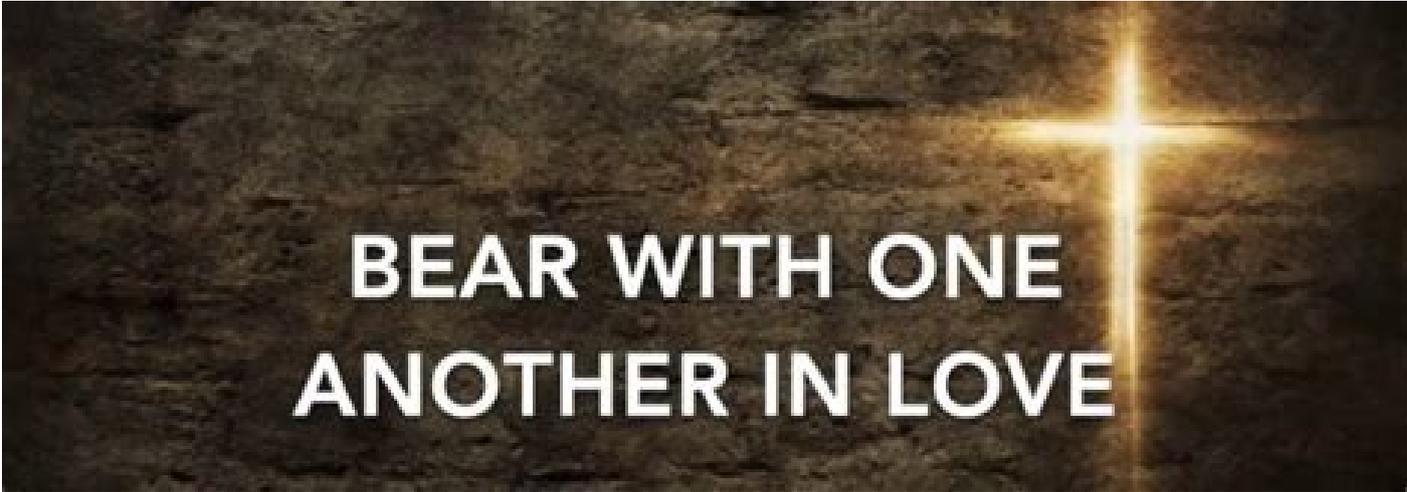
The "Instant" lifestyle is not for the Christian.

Important things need enthusiasm and time.



be patient, bearing with one another in love.

This is where patience can be tested...  
I am an imperfect person who needs to  
relate to imperfect people. WE are family!  
To bear with someone is not always easy.  
The essential ingredient to make it work is  
'love' – God's gift at work in us.  
It desires the best for the other person.



**BEAR WITH ONE  
ANOTHER IN LOVE**

## Make every effort

I have an active part to play.  
It isn't just 'let go and let God'.  
Energy is needed – be strong in the Lord!



Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit

The particular focus of the effort is ...

To keep (and maintain what you already possess)

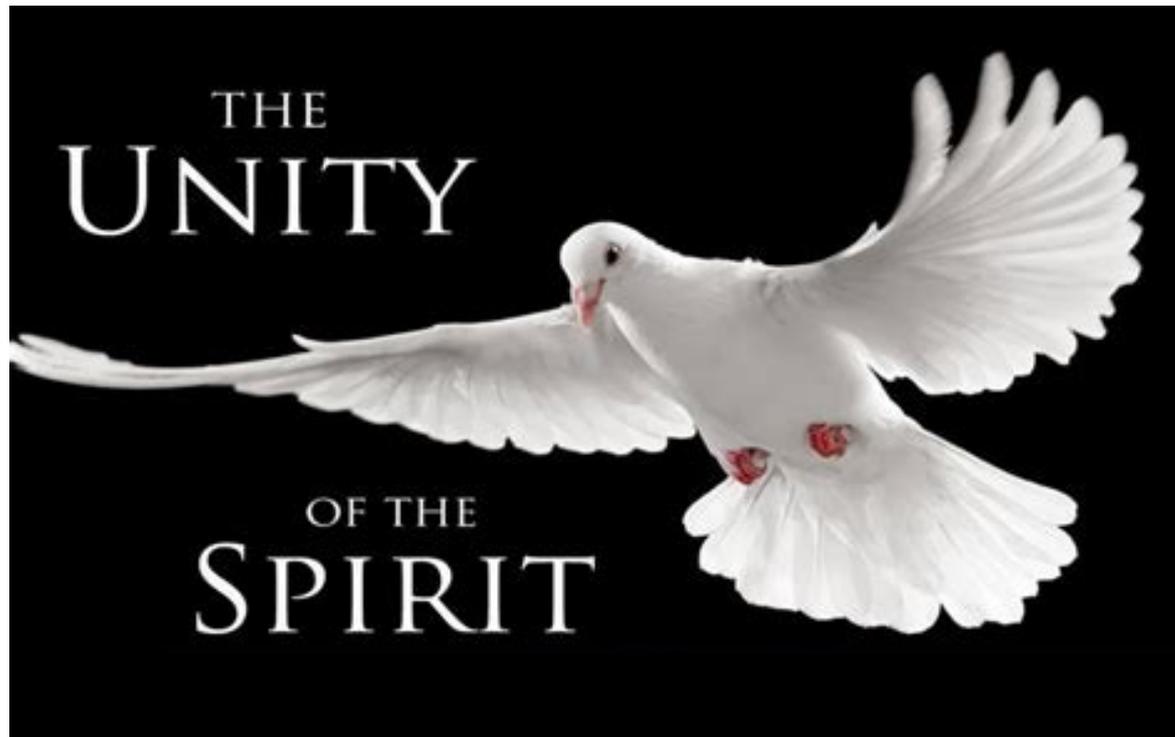
The Unity of the Spirit ( based on the truth he has revealed) and His working in us to value brothers and sisters.

This isn't just a 'be nice to people' kind of unity



Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

It works through the 'bond' of peace  
Peace with God –we have been forgiven so much.  
Be at peace with fellow believers in what we share in our salvation. How do we cope with differences?



There is one body and one Spirit--

**The following statements are basic truths that we must believe and accept.**

They are the non-negotiable foundation to the Christian faith.

One body – formed of all true believers from diverse backgrounds. Distinctions disappear in Christ.

**ONE**  
The Power Of

There is one body and one Spirit--

The Holy Spirit versus the many spirits that are active in this fallen world.



1 John 4:1-2 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

just as you were called to one hope  
when you were called--

The promise of eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ is the one and only way – one hope ( but a very real one!) The same destination.



just as you were called to one hope  
**when you were called--**

‘When’ points to the time in our lives when God’s call became effectual for us. It is a personal call to each saved individual.

I am my beloved’s and he is mine.



one Lord,

The world has many 'lords' but we have the ONE Lord. His name is Jesus. "No other Name is given among men by whom we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Paul's use of the name 'Lord' takes us to the use of the word in the OT as a means of expressing the divine name 'YHWH'



**Jesus  
Is LORD**

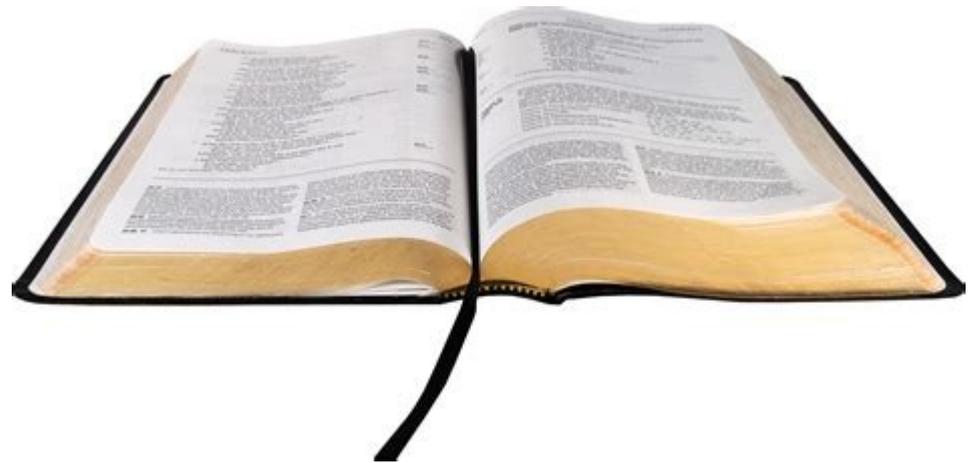
one faith,

By this Paul means the objective body of teaching given by our Lord and His apostles and prophets. It constitutes the truths given in the Scriptures that we are called to accept and believe.

Our 'faith' (personal) takes hold of 'the one faith' (the truths that bring salvation)

James 1:18 – born 'through the word of truth'.

Contrast present day errors 'your truth vs. my truth'  
Or like Pilate – what is truth! (John 18:38)



one baptism;

This is the external entry point into the visible community of believers

Today there exist several modes of baptism.

The NT teaches 'believer's baptism by immersion' since it is a community of faith.

cf. Matthew 28:19



one God and Father of all,

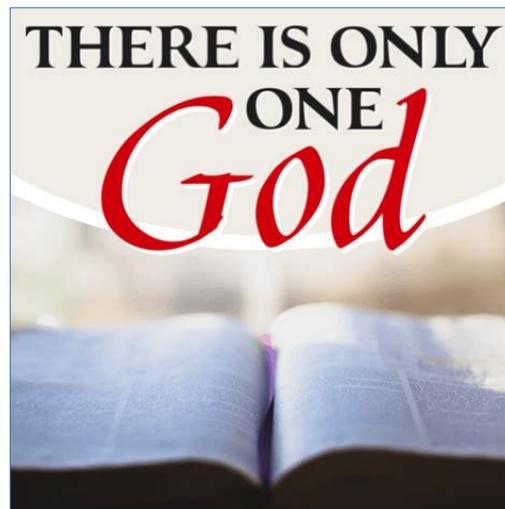
This tells us that we hold to a monotheistic religion.

There is only one God – the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Father – of our Lord Jesus Christ, and through him our heavenly Father too.

It reflects His authority, discipline, protection and love.

Father of all – is not a form of Universalism, but inclusive of all his believing children cf. Jesus' words – you are of your father -the devil. (John 8:44)



one God and Father of all,  
who is over all

He has the ultimate authority

He is Sovereign – to be honoured and worshipped



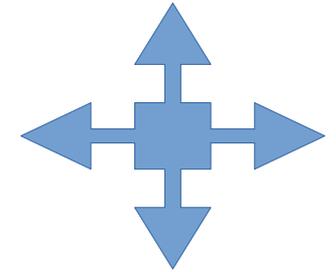
one God and Father of all,  
who is over all  
and through all

He is active in us – this shows his omnipotence



one God and Father of all,  
who is over all  
and through all  
and in all.

Here we see His omnipresence



God is at work in us as our heavenly Father.



live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

What is being a Christian meant to look like?

A worshipper of God  
– the Father, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit

