

Cheltenham & Frankston
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31 May & 1 June 2014

THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS (4)

INFORMATION + REVELATION = TRANSFORMATION

Message Notes

The information and revelation the apostle has given in the first three chapters is now applied in transformation in the last three...

In chapter 4 we see how this revelation transforms our:

1. Unity (1-6)
2. Diversity (7-16)
3. Purity (17-32).

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

1. Unity (1-6)

We already have unity but we must work hard at keeping it. Why? Because we are all so different: tastes & habits, intellect & feeling, differences in opinion, education & temperament, race, gender & culture, economic & family background etc.

Look around; we are all so different (if it wasn't for Jesus most of us wouldn't even know each other). But here we are together in one community so we have to make every effort to keep unity! When we don't make every effort disaster is the result!

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

Ephesians 4:4-6 lists 7 things we should focus on in order to maintain unity in the church community:

One body – One church in the world

One Spirit – The Holy Spirit who indwells every believer.

One hope – The hope that comes from our common salvation

One Lord – Jesus the Saviour of the world

One faith – If we share the same faith in the same Lord why shouldn't we be in unity?

One baptism –the baptism by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ

One God – not many gods but ONE God who we all love (which leads to unity)

Jesus prayed: "*That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe that you have sent me***" (John 17:21)

Qualities needed to keep unity:

Peace: Unity first comes from the inside rather than externals

Humility: Don't promote yourself, be interested in others!

Phil 2:3, "*...in humility consider others better than yourselves*"

Gentleness: to endure offences without anger or a desire of revenge, but rather to exercise a forgiving spirit.

Patience: putting up with the shortcomings, faults, and weaknesses of others – in love (1 Corinthians 13:2-4)

See 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

2. Diversity (7-16)

Teaching series: Who's your Minister?

Link: <http://baysidechurch.com.au/category/whos-your-minister/>

Ephesians 4:7, "*...to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it*"

Make every effort to keep unity with diversity and...

3. Purity (17-32)

God's lavish grace and His love that surpasses knowledge are never an excuse to live a sloppy life. A cheap grace that says, "I can live like I want to live because God will just forgive me" was never the intention of the Gospel (Romans 6:1-2)

Ephesians 4:22-32

I pray that Bayside Church will be a family of unity, diversity & purity that is transformed by the revelation of God's grace & love.