

What this Church Needs to Grow Spiritually

Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction

- The spiritual growth of the local church...
 - is crucial to the spiritual well-being of all the members of the local congregation.
 - is only possible when the members are *“endeavoring to the keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

Introduction

- The Lord has given the local church everything it needs to promote spiritual growth of all the members.
- In this two-part lesson we will consider what is necessary for this local church to continue growing spiritually.

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**The Need to Keep
the Unity of the Spirit
in the Bond of Peace**

What this Church Needs to Grow Spiritually

- **The Need to Keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.**
 - We are to walk worthy of the calling. ***Eph 4:1-3***
 - ... with “*all lowliness and gentleness.*”
 - ... with “*longsuffering*” (patience, ESV).
 - “*Bearing with one another in love,*” ***Col 3:12-14***
 - “*Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*” ***cf. Eph 4:4-6***

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- **The Need to Keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.**

- We are part of one body and one Spirit.
- We were called in one hope of your calling.
- We have one Lord.
- We are of one faith.
- We are of one baptism.
- We are children of one God and Father.

Ephesians 4:4-6

What this Church Needs to Grow Spiritually

- **The Need to Keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.**
 - Each member is to maintain this unity with
 - All humility,
 - gentleness,
 - patience,
 - and bearing with one another with godly love.

What this Church Needs to Grow Spiritually

**The Need for
Proper Leadership
and Teaching**

What this Church Needs to Grow Spiritually

- **The Need for Proper Leadership and Teaching.**
 - Five roles mentioned by Paul. *Eph 4:7-11*
 - **Apostles:**
 - Men chosen by Jesus to serve as witnesses to Him.
 - The apostles received power when the Holy Spirit came upon them on the day of Pentecost. *John 15:26-27; Acts 1:7-8*

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- **The Need for Proper Leadership and Teaching.**
 - Five roles mentioned by Paul. *Eph 4:7-11*
 - **Apostles:**
 - **Prophets:** Teachers inspired by the Holy Spirit.
Act 11:27-28; 13:1-3; Eph 2:19-22

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- **The Need for Proper Leadership and Teaching.**
 - Five roles mentioned by Paul. *Eph 4:7-11*
 - **Apostles**
 - **Prophets**
 - **Evangelists:** Those who preach the good news of salvation and the inspired word of God.
 - Philip the evangelist. *Acts 21:8*
 - Timothy the evangelist. *2 Tim 4:5*

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- **The Need for Proper Leadership and Teaching.**
 - Five roles mentioned by Paul. *Eph 4:7-11*
 - **Apostles**
 - **Prophets**
 - **Evangelists**
 - **Pastors:** Pastors (elders, shepherds) are those who lead and watch over the flock who is among them (local congregation). *Acts 20:28-31; 1 Pet 5:1-4*

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- **The Need for Proper Leadership and Teaching.**
 - Five roles mentioned by Paul. *Eph 4:7-11*
 - **Apostles**
 - **Prophets**
 - **Evangelists**
 - **Pastors**
 - **Teachers:** Those who teach the inspired word of God. *Acts 13:1; cf. 1 Cor 12:28-31; Heb 5:12*

Conclusion

- This local church must continue to grow spiritually in order to properly serve the Lord and proclaim His message to the world around us.
 - *“but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*
1 Tim 3:15

Conclusion

- In this first part, we saw the need to:
 - Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - Maintain proper leadership and teaching.
- In the second part, we will talk about the need to keep putting forth the ongoing effort to grow.