

DSBC

DESERT SPRINGS BIBLE CHURCH

*Learn more about this text, DSBC and how you
can take your next step at dsbc.church/ground*

**WE SEEK TO LIVE
GENEROUSLY, USING OUR TIME,
SKILLS AND RESOURCES TO BLESS
AND SERVE OUR COMMUNITY AND
TO LIVE AS THE HANDS
AND FEET OF
JESUS.**

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

¹Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope at your calling — ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸For it says: When he ascended on high, he took the captives captive; he gave gifts to people.

⁹But what does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things. ¹¹And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head — Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. In verse 3, the author calls his readers to 'make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.' What do you think that means?
2. What does the author say about the role of leaders and teachers in the local church?
3. The author mentions that Jesus followers are to grow into a 'maturity that is measured by Christ's fullness.' What do you think that means?
4. How does the author argue that the church is designed to grow?

YOUR NEXT STEP

What is a step that you can take to apply today's teaching?

NOTES
