



A Closer Look

“One Way to One”

10th Week After Pentecost: August 1st, 2021

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

1. Right off the bat, the Apostle Paul urges the Ephesians to live a life worthy of the *calling* they had received. Which kind of “calling” was this? To the spiritual life? To the ministry? See Ephesians 4:18.
2. Next, Paul urges them to keep the unity of the Spirit. What was the main issue that was causing division in this group of Christians? See Ephesians 2:11-12.
3. How are the issues facing the Ephesian congregation similar to the issues we are facing in America and in the Christian Church today?
4. How does the metaphor of ONE BODY in Christ do away with every man-made, sin-induced division we face?
5. So many things about the pandemic have been divisive. What instructions does Paul give us as we deal with others. How will you remember to put them in to practice?
6. Christ gave public ministers to equip God’s people. How does the “Called worker/Lay worker” balance look at Mount Olive. Are there adjustments to be made?
7. There is no truth without love and no love without truth. What happens when you try to use one without the other?