

# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



## 7. Building up the Body

### Introduction

We have been made one in Christ. This is one of the central truths in the Book of Ephesians and was the focus of Paul's teaching in chapter 2, where he shows that Jew and Gentile have been made one new man in Christ. Then Paul continues by sharing how he was called to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, and follows with a prayer to the Father, 'from whom this whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name'. In chapter 4 Paul picks up this theme of oneness or unity again, urging readers to make every effort to be united.

### **Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 4:1-16

- † What qualities does Paul mention in Ephesians 4:1-3 that are so important if we are going to keep this unity? From your experience, how does a lack of these qualities sometimes create disunity?
- † What are the 7 aspects of our unity in verses 4 to 6, and why are these aspects essential to Christianity?
- † What are the gifts that God has given to the church that are mentioned in these verses, and why does God give these gifts? See v8, 11, 12a
- † What are God's purposes for the church, as outlined in verses 12b to 15?
- † This passage ends with a picture of the church as a 'Body'. How does this 'Body' grow into maturity? V16 What do you think your part in this 'Body' is?

### Conclusion

We have been called to become sons and daughters of God and have been made part of the Body of Christ. What a privilege! Sadly the Body of Christ is often a poor reflection of what He, the Head, is like. God equips men and women to prepare God's people, so that the Body will grow in unity and into maturity. However that can only be accomplished when each member of the Body works together in love and does their part. So let's make sure we are doing our part!