

IV. UNITY REQUIRES MATURITY

“13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—” Ephesians 4:13, 15

Growing in Christlikeness creates an atmosphere of unity.

“3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?” I Corinthians 3:3-4

V. UNITY REQUIRES EVERYBODY

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:16

Total body function is absolutely essential to achieve total unity.

“20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.” I Corinthians 12:20-22

LET’S ALL BE STRONGER TOGETHER IN UNITY

“Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:12

STRONGER TOGETHER

Based On The Book Of Ephesians

Stronger Together In Unity

Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. Health pandemic, Social strife. Political division. Everywhere you look, the world is in trouble and experiencing hard times. The good news is we have the hope that people are searching for, and it’s only found in Jesus. We must tell and show our community that we are stronger together through Jesus!

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” Ephesians 6:10

B. Drawing from the book of Ephesians the Stronger Together Teaching Series will help you thrive in uncertainty and flourish as one. You will discover how we can be stronger together in a world gripped by chaos. The messages include:

Oct 4	Stronger Together In Jesus
Oct 11	Stronger Together In Reconciliation
Oct 18	Stronger Together In Prayer
TODAY	Stronger Together In Unity
Nov 1	Stronger Together In Purity
Nov 8	Stronger Together In Humility
Nov 15	Stronger Together In Victory

C. TEXT: Ephesians 4:1-16 (Pew Bible/Page 197/New Test.)

Unity of the Spirit is produced by ongoing positive actions and rigorous effort (4:3).

STRONGER TOGETHER IN UNITY

I. UNITY REQUIRES HUMILITY

*“1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,”* Ephesians 4:1-2

Humility is not seeing yourself as less important, but seeing others as more important.

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” Philippians 2:3

“I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.”

III John 9

II. UNITY REQUIRES THEOLOGY

*“4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* Ephesians 4:4-6

“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,”

Ephesians 4:14

Theology matters because what we believe is wed to how we behave.

“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:” Titus 2:1

III. UNITY REQUIRES MINISTRY

“Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.” Ephesians 4:8

*“11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”*

Ephesians 4:11-12

There are three lists of spiritual gifts in the Bible (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11 and Ephesians 4:11).

“6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” Romans 12 6-8

“10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11...If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified”

I Peter 4:10-11b