



EPHESIANS 4:1-10

17 FEB 2018



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 - “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”
 - ⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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CONTEXT: (CH 1-3)

- Chapter 1:1-14: God's blessings to us in Christ
 - Chosen to be holy and blameless (1:4)
 - Predestined for adoption as sons (1:5)
 - Redemption (1:7)
 - Forgiveness (1:7)
 - Knowledge of his plan to unite all things in Christ (1:8-10)
 - Guaranteed Inheritance (1:11-12, 14)
 - Holy Spirit (1:13-14)
- Chapter 1:15-23: Thanksgiving and Prayer
- Chapter 2:1-10: By Grace Through Faith
 - We "were dead" in sins, but God "made us alive together with Christ" (2:1-7)
 - "By grace you have been saved through faith..." (2:8)
 - We are "God's workmanship" (2:10)
 - We are "created in Christ Jesus for good works" (2:10)
- Chapter 2:11-22: One in Christ
 - Gentiles WERE:
 - Separated from Christ (2:12)
 - Alienated from Israel (2:12)
 - Strangers to the covenants (2:12,19)
 - Had no hope (2:12)
 - Without God (2:12)
 - Far away (2:13)
 - Divided by wall of hostility (2:14)
 - Now in Christ ARE:
 - Brought near (2:13)
 - Made one (with Jews) (2:14-15)
 - Reconciled with Jews to God (2:16)
 - Have peace (2:14-17)
 - Have access to Spirit and Father (2:18)
 - Fellow citizens (2:19)
 - Being built together into a dwelling place for God (2:19-22)

CONTEXT: (CH 1-3)

- Chapter 3:1-13: Paul Called to Preach the Gospel to Gentiles
- Chapter 3:14-21: Further Prayer for Ephesians

- Context Summary:
 - God's choice to bless us (Christians) immensely in Christ
 - God saved us by grace, not our good works
 - We are God's workmanship, to do his work
 - God's plan is to create one unified people for himself

CALL TO ACTION (4:1-3)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,** ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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BASIS FOR UNITY (4:5-6)

⁴ There is **one** body and **one** Spirit—just as you were called to the **one** hope that belongs to your call—⁵ **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, ⁶ **one** God and Father of **all**, who is over **all** and through **all** and in **all**.

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(Ephesians 1:22-23) “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”



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DIVERSITY OF GIFTS (4:7-10)

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and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

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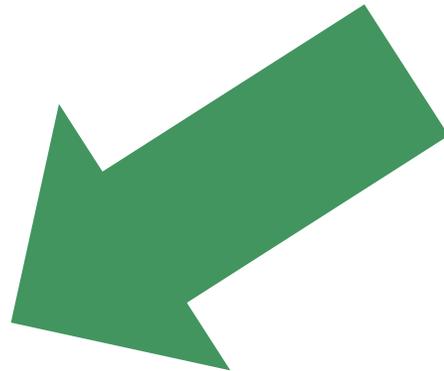
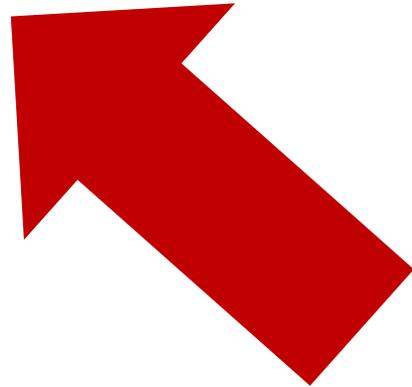
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John 17:20-23:

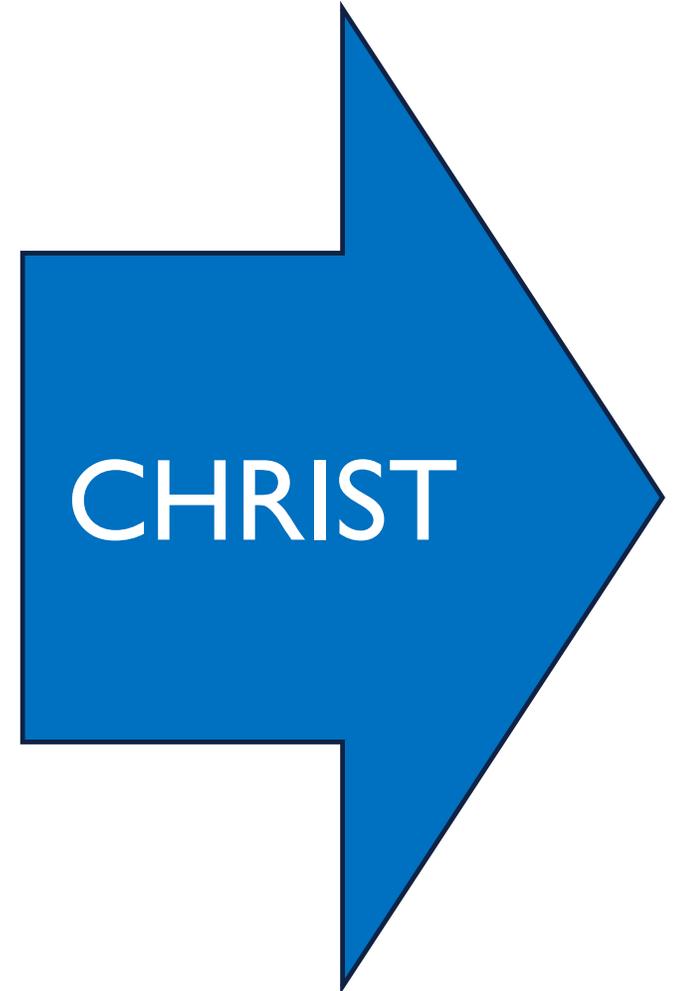
²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ **I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one**, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

FILLING WITH CHRIST (4:7-10, JOHN 17:20-23, 1:9-10)

Your heart

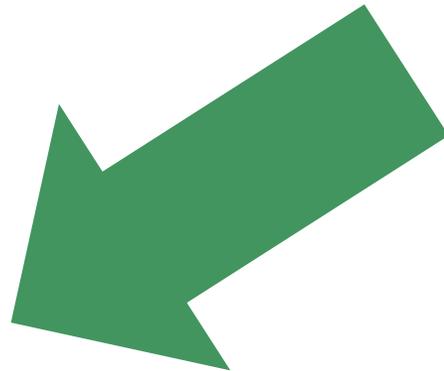
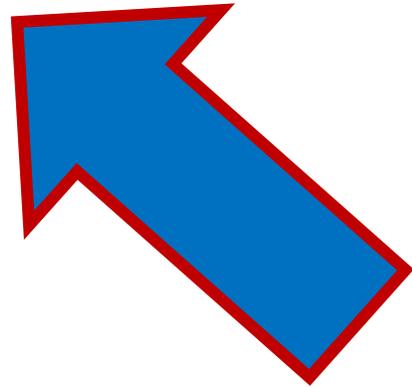


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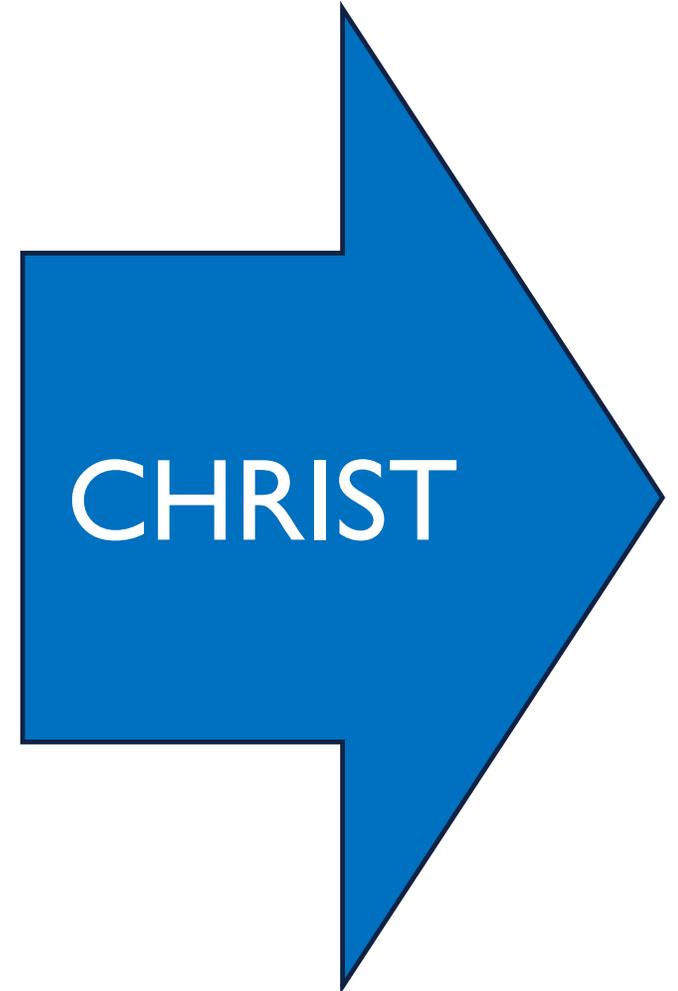


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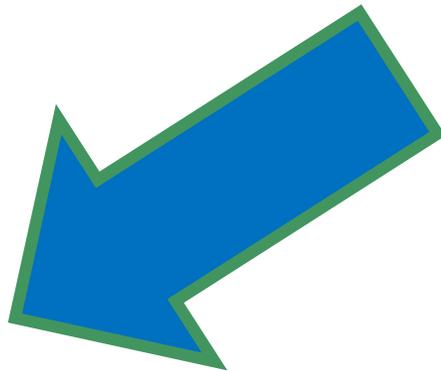
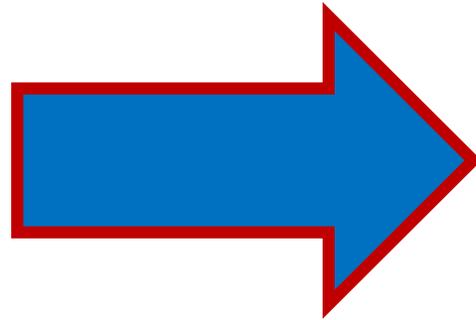


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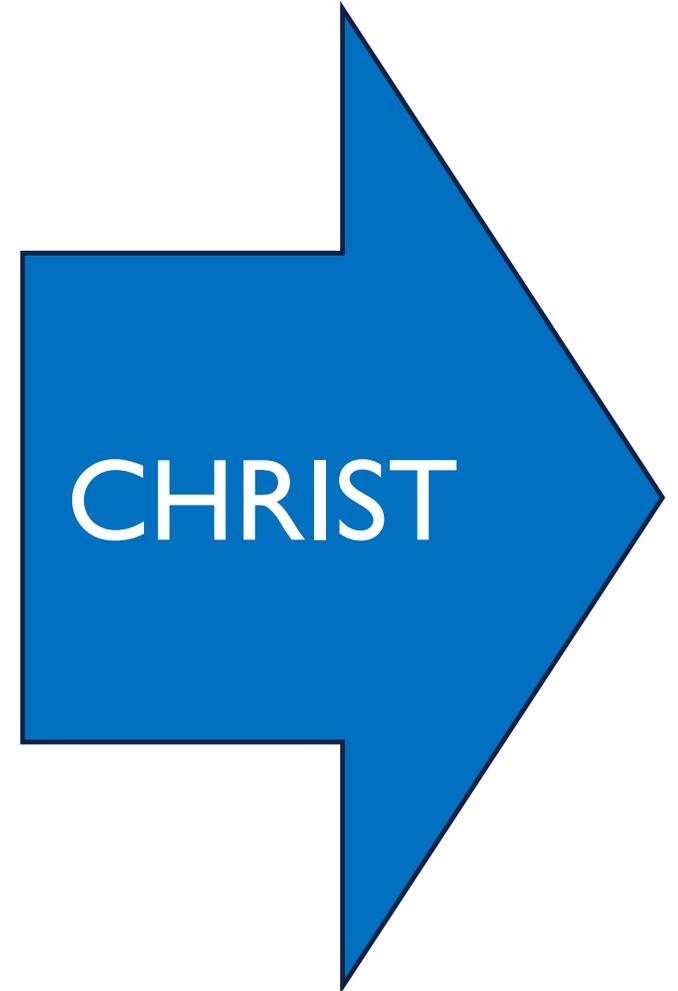


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Ephesians 1:9-10:

⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, **to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.**

SUMMARY

- We are called to salvation (Eph 1)
- We are called to be part of God's one unified church (Eph 2, 4:4-6)
- Our calling calls us to act differently to maintain unity (Eph 4:1-3)
 - Humility
 - Gentleness
 - Patience
 - Bearing with each other in love
 - Eagerness to maintain unity
- Christ gives different gifts to the church (Eph 4:7-10)
- Ultimately, God will unite all things through the filling of Christ (Eph 4:10, John 17:20-23, Eph 1:9-10)