

family matters

harmony in the family

Discord, whether in an orchestra, family or church is irritating and discouraging. But harmony is pleasant and cheerful to the spirit. What causes closeness and unity? How can family members get along great together? Paul's prescription in Ephesians 4:1-16 reveals five ways to build **harmony in the family**.

equalizing our walk



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.

Ephesians 4:1-2

accepting our oneness



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.

Ephesians 4:3-5

using our uniqueness



But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

*"When he ascended on high,
he took many captives and gave gifts to his people."*

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NOTES - The icons below may be helpful as you take notes on the outline.



⁹ (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers.

Ephesians 4:7-11

maintaining our service



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.

Ephesians 4:11-13

deepening our beliefs



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.

Ephesians 4:13-16

next steps

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