

# A Hill Worth Dying On | Gospel Unity

## Ephesians 4:1-6

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### I. There are some hills worth dying on; however, there are many that aren't.

*“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, 21that 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.*

—John 17:20-21

*By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

—John 13:35

### II. Fighting for Unity (Ephesians 4:1-6)

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

—Ephesians 4:1-3

a. We are called to live out what is already true of us.  
(4:1; 4-6)

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

—Ephesians 4:4-5

*...speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

—Ephesians 4:25b

b. Unity is not uniformity. (4:2)

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

—Ephesians 4:1b-3

*...for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,*

—Revelation 5:9b

c. Experiencing unity doesn't just happen; instead, it requires effort. (4:3)

*eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

—Ephesians 4:3

*with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love*

—Ephesians 4:2

**\*III. Choose to Fight for Unity \***

a. Choose humility over pride. (James 4:6)

*...“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

—James 4:6b

b. Choose to allow grace to cover a lot of differences. (Eph. 4:32)

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

—Ephesians 4:32

c. Choose to have conversations rather than debates. (Prov. 18:2)

*A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,  
but only in expressing his opinion.*

—Proverbs 18:2

*By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if  
you have love for one another.*

—John 13:35

### **Study Questions**

1. If you've spent any time in a local church, chances are you've seen firsthand division within the church. If so, discuss the cause of the division you witnessed. How did leaders address this specific division? Any kind of division can cripple a church or at the least take it off mission. In your own opinion, why do you think division (or disunity) within the church is all too common? Explain.

2. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. What might we assume about the church in Ephesus based on Paul's words here? In other words, what circumstances may have been taking place that would compel Paul to speak so specifically about unity? Think about our church. Based on your own experience, as well as what you may have observed, what truths do you think we (Southbrook) need to apply from what Paul writes here? Be specific. Also, explain why you feel such applications are necessary.

3. If we're going to maintain the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3), it's going to require effort from each of us; we're all going to need to choose to fight for unity. Of the following choices below (from this week's message), which do you feel need your attention when it comes to your efforts to maintain unity with others? Explain. Close out your time together by praying for one another as you seek to live out these truths in very real, practical ways.

Choose humility over pride

Choose to allow grace to cover your differences

Choose to have conversations rather than debates