

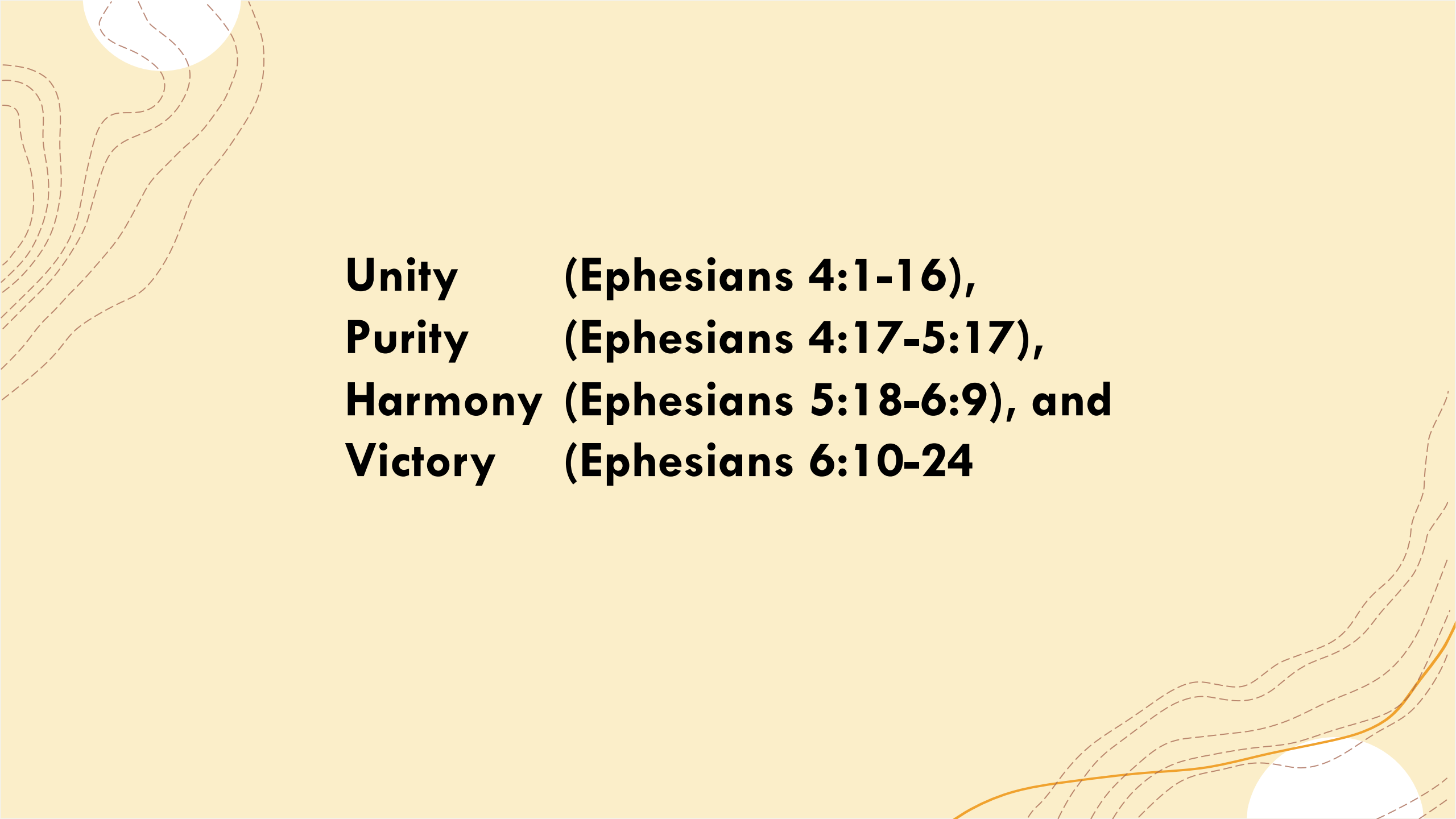
# “The United Church Stands Undivided”

*Ephesians 4:1-16*

*John 17:20-24*

*Revd Dino Thangamany*

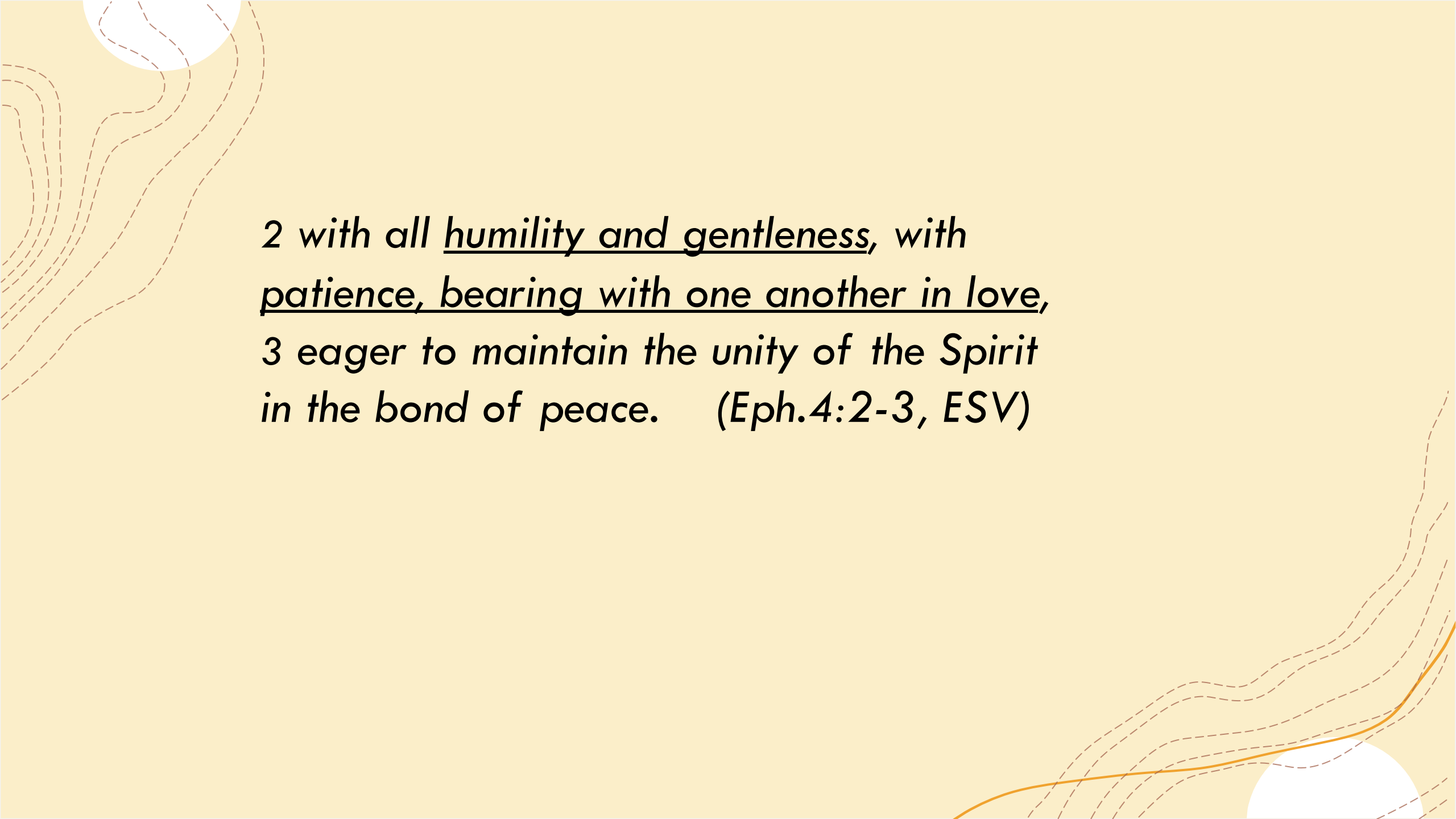
*17 June 2023*



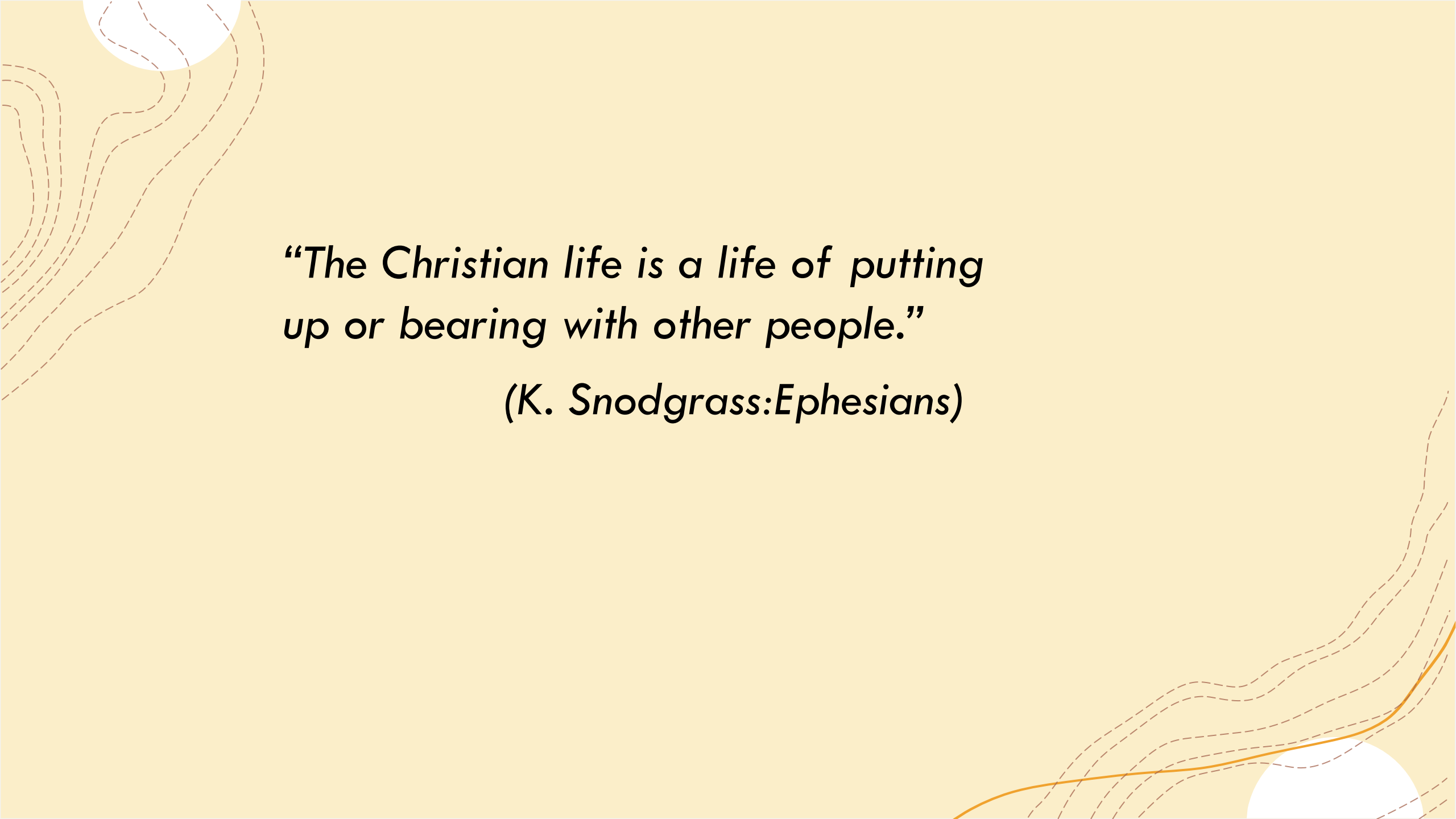
**Unity** (Ephesians 4:1-16),  
**Purity** (Ephesians 4:17-5:17),  
**Harmony** (Ephesians 5:18-6:9), and  
**Victory** (Ephesians 6:10-24)

## 1. The grace of Unity in our walk (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, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, *bearing with one another* in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:1 - 6, ESV)

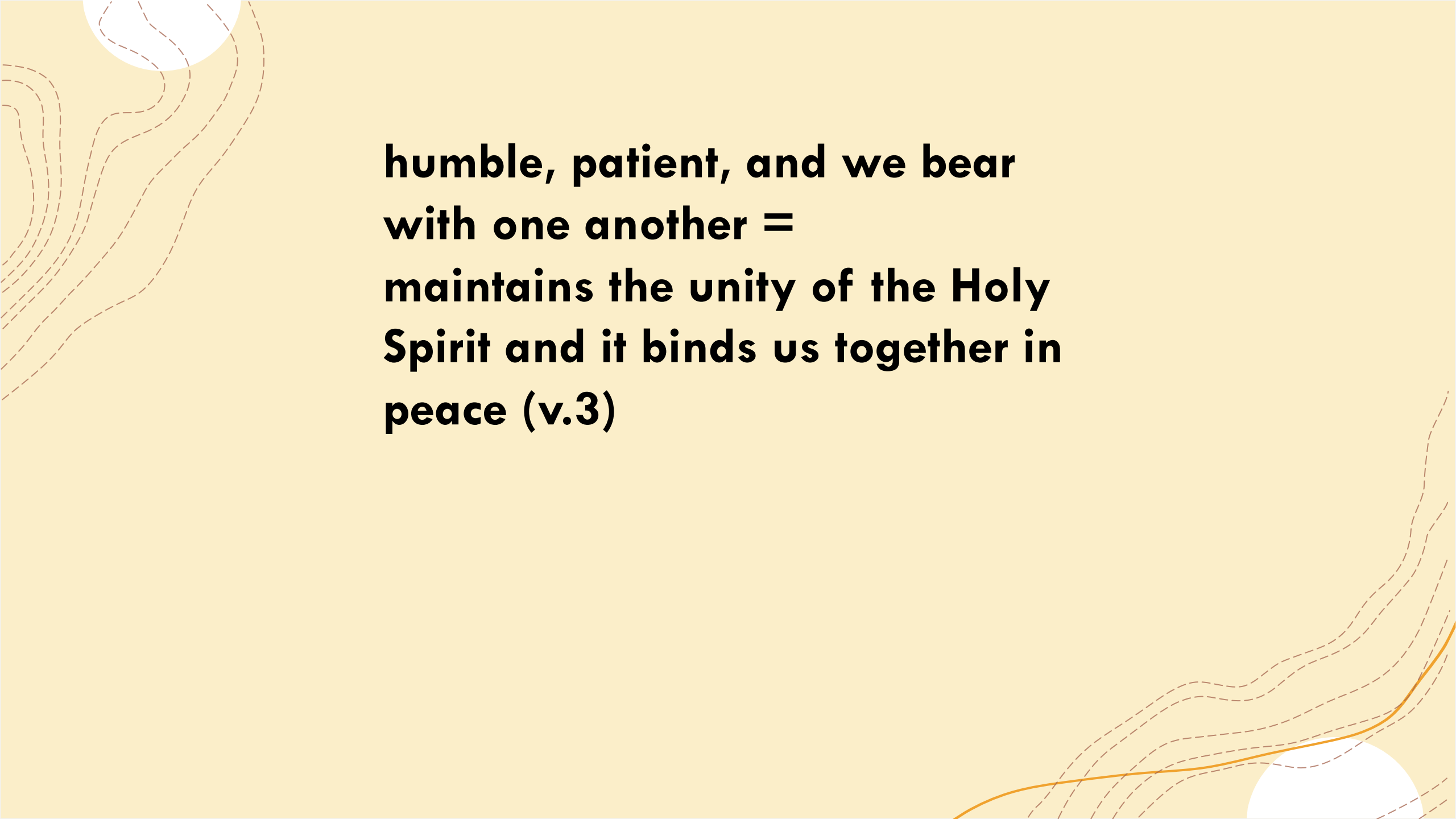


*2 with all humility and gentleness, with  
patience, bearing with one another in love,  
3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace. (Eph.4:2-3, ESV)*



*“The Christian life is a life of putting up or bearing with other people.”*

*(K. Snodgrass: Ephesians)*



**humble, patient, and we bear  
with one another =  
maintains the unity of the Holy  
Spirit and it binds us together in  
peace (v.3)**



Ephesians 4:4-6, ESV

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.

## 2. The grace of Gifts for Unity (Eph\_4:7-13)

- given each believer at least one spiritual gift (1 Co\_12:1-12)
- spiritual gift: a God-given ability to serve God and other Christians so Christ is glorified and believers are edified.
- three lists of spiritual gifts given in the New Testament:  
1 Cor.12:4-11, 1 Cor.12:27-31; Rom.12:3-8; and Eph.4:11



Apostles (apostolos) =

“one who is sent with a commission” ‘a Commissioner of Christ’;  
“divinely appointed representative”

- give witness of the Resurrection (Acts 1:15-22)

Prophets = proclaims the Word of God (Acts 11:28; Eph. 3:5)

- understanding “all mysteries and all knowledge” (1 Cor. 13:2a),
- is “edification, encouragement, and consolation” (1 Cor. 14:3)

## Evangelists = “Bearers of the Good News/preacher of the Gospel”

- preach the Gospel and win the lost (Acts 8:26-40; Acts 21:28)
- in the early church, every believer was a witness (Acts 2:41-47 Acts 11:19-21)

## Pastors and teachers

- Pastor means “shepherd,” indicating local church is a flock of sheep (Acts 20:28),
- His responsibility to feed and lead the flock (1 Pet. 5:1-4)

Ephesians 4:12-13, ESV

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,

### 3. Unity in our growth (vv. 14-16)

Ephesians 4:14-16, ESV

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.

