

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 4:4-6

Lesson #15

Limits of Unity

11/05/2017

Ephesians 4

“1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

1. Our unity is a PRIORITY and calls for TOLERANCE.

Ephesians 4

“4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also 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 over all and through all and in all.”

1. Our unity is both DEFINED and LIMITED by many issues.

body, Spirit, hope, Lord,
faith, baptism, God

Lutheran



Methodist, Baptist,
Presbyterian, Catholic,
Episcopalian,
Muslim, Buddhist,



Lutheran World Federation[edit]

- Batak Christian Protestant Church (Indonesia)
- Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
- Church of Denmark (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark)
- Church of Iceland (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland)
- Church of Norway (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norway)
- Church of Sweden
- Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)
- Evangelical Church of Augustan Confession in Romania
- Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in Poland
- Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia
- Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia
- Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil
- Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia
- Evangelical Community Church-Lutheran
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ecuador
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN - GELC)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Central Asia
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela

United and uniting churches with Lutheran roots[edit]

- Evangelical Church in Germany
- Protestant Church in the Netherlands
- Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (TELCC) (India)
- United Church of Christ (United States)
- United Protestant Church of France

International Lutheran Council[edit]

- American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC)
- China Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of England
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile
- Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod of France and Belgium
- Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Denmark
- Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa
- Gutnius Lutheran Church
- Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church
- India Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Japan Lutheran Church
- Lanka Lutheran Church
- Lutheran Church—Canada
- Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod
- Lutheran Church in Korea

Lutheran Church in the Philippines

- Lutheran Church in Singapore and Malaysia
- Lutheran Church in Southern Africa
- Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Lutheran Church of Australia (associate member)
- Lutheran Church of Guatemala
- Lutheran Church of Nigeria
- Lutheran Church of Venezuela
- Lutheran Ministerium and Synod – USA
- Lutheran Synod of Mexico

Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference[edit]

- All Saints Lutheran Church of Nigeria
- Bulgarian Lutheran Church
- Christ the King Lutheran (Nigeria)
- Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Mexico)
- Confessional Lutheran Church (Latvia)
- Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (Czech Republic)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church "Concord" (Russia)
- Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Finland)
- Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Puerto Rico)
- Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (Germany) (Germany)
- Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia
- Evangelical Lutheran Synod (Peru)
- Evangelical Lutheran Synod - United States
- Geraja Lutheran Indonesia
- The Lutheran Church of Cameroon
- Lutheran Church of Central Africa Malawi Conference
- Lutheran Church of Central Africa Zambia Conference
- Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden and Norway)
- Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church (Japan)
- Ukrainian Lutheran Church
- Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (United States)

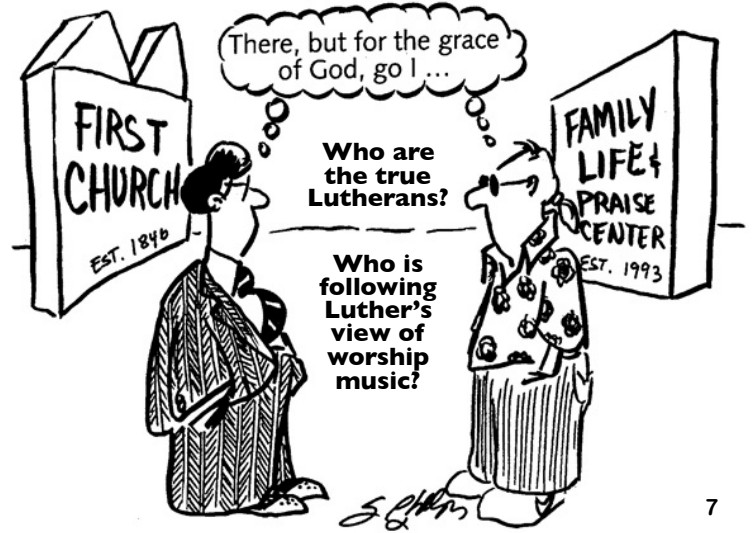
Evangelical Catholic[edit]

- [Anglo-Lutheran Catholic Church](#)
- [Association of Independent Evangelical Lutheran Churches](#)
- [Evangelical Catholic Church](#)
- [Evangelical Marian Catholic Church](#)
- [Lutheran Episcopal Communion](#)
- [Lutheran Church - International \(formerly International Lutheran Fellowship\)](#)
- [The Lutheran Orthodox Church](#)

Unaffiliated Lutheran denominations[edit]

- [Alliance of Renewal Churches \(ARC\)](#)
- [American Lutheran Synod \(ALS\)](#)
- [Apostolic Lutheran Church of America](#)
- [Apostolic Lutheran Church of Myanmar^{\(1\)}](#)
- [Association of Free Lutheran Congregations](#)
- [Augsburg Lutheran Churches \(ALC\)^{\(2\)}](#)
- [Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)
- [Brotherhood of Popular Pastoral Action - Lutheran Coordination \(Panama\)](#)
- [Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations](#)
- [China Lutheran Gospel Church](#)
- [Chinese Lutheran Brethren Church](#)
- [Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America](#)
- [Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Chad](#)
- [Church of the Lutheran Confession \(CLC\)](#)
- [Concordia Lutheran Church \(Sweden\)](#)
- [Concordia Lutheran Conference](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church of Augsburg Confession in Russia](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo EELC-Brazzaville](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church of Côte d'Ivoire](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church on the Faroe Islands](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Gambia](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guinea](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Church of Togo](#)

- [Evangelical Lutheran Conference & Ministerium of North America \(ELCM\)](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of the Reformation \(Australia\)](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America \(ELDoNA\)](#)
- [Evangelical Lutheran Mission \(Liberia\)](#)
- [Federation of Lutheran Churches in Middle Germany](#)
- [General Lutheran Church^{\(4\)}](#)
- [Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church \(India\)](#)
- [Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua](#)
- [Istanbul Lutheran Church \(Turkey\)](#)
- [Kosovo Protestant Evangelical Church](#)
- [Laestadian Lutheran Church](#)
- [Laos Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)
- [Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)
- [Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tamil Nadu](#)
- [Lutheran Alliance of Churches in renovation \(ALIA\) - Brazil](#)
- [Lutheran Church of Cameroon](#)
- [Lutheran Church of Central Africa \(Malawi & Zambia\)](#)
- [Lutheran Church of Eritrea](#)
- [Lutheran Church of Ethiopia](#)
- [The Lutheran Church of India](#)
- [Lutheran Church of New Zealand](#)
- [The Lutheran Church of the Republic of China](#)
- [Lutheran Church of Togo](#)
- [Lutheran Churches of the Reformation \(LCR\)](#)
- [Lutheran Churches of the Reformation in Nigeria](#)
- [Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ \(USA\)](#)
- [Lutheran Ministerium and Synod - USA](#)
- [Lutheran Mission in Thailand \(LMT\)](#)
- [North American Lutheran Church \(US and Canada\)](#)
- [North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church \(India\)](#)
- [Old Apostolic Lutheran Church](#)
- [Old Lutheran Church \(Asia\)](#)
- [Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)
- [Tagakaulo Lutheran Church of Christ in the Philippines](#)
- [United Lutheran Mission Association \(ULMA\) \(USA\)](#)



Healthy believers build Christian community without compromising its

1.

distinct standards

1 Corinthians 5:9

“I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;”

2.

diverse “body life”

Titus 3:10

“Reject a factious man after a first and second warning”

8

3. Conflicts are INEVITABLE.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.”

1 Corinthians 11:19

“For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.”



9

“Lower your expectations of earth. This isn’t heaven, so don’t expect it to be.”

Max Lucado

“Divorce is an earned right only after you have done everything possible to save the marriage.”

Dr. Phil McGraw

10

The church in Corinth

Not engaged in

Culture Wars




Too engaged in

Civil Wars



11

When & how should I forebear?  When & how should I confront?


Celebrate **Forebear** **Confront**

When must I disturb the peace?

Idolatry (beliefs)
- when the King or the Gospel is displaced by anything else!

Immorality (behaviors)
- when the Body of Christ is being disrespected or damaged!

12

When & how should I forebear?  When & how should I confront?

Celebrate **Forebear** **Confront**

“When should I . . . ?” “When must I . . . ?” “When can I . . . ?”

I go along to get along

I am a peacemaker with grace & truth

I take a stand on everything

13

4. There is a **CONTINUUM** between what we celebrate and what we condemn.

Sacrificial love **Honest respect** **Empathetic projection**

Celebrate **Cultivate** **Tolerate** **Criticize** **Condemn**

Defensive withdrawal **Irresponsible selfishness** **Physical abuse**

John 19:11
“he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

14

Managing conflict

Acts 15

“¹ And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.”

- Conflicts should be expected.
- Communities should communicate.
- Respected leaders should arbitrate.

15

Acts 15

“⁷ After there had been **much debate**, Peter stood up and said to them, . . .”

“¹² All the people kept silent, and they were **listening** to Barnabas and Paul . . .”

“¹⁹ (James speaks) Therefore it is **my judgment** that -”


“²² Then it **seemed good** to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church -”

“²⁸ For it **seemed good** to the Holy Spirit and to us -”

- Mature believers need wisdom to apply what has been revealed.
- Leaders convince more than coerce.

16

Max Lucado



“conflict is inevitable, but combat is not.”

17

Acts 15

(Paul and Barnabas had different opinions with respect to the trustworthiness of John (Mark) as a companion in ministry)

“³⁹ And there arose such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. ⁴⁰ But Paul chose Silas and departed, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”

- **Sometimes creative alternatives are needed to manage differences.**
- **It's not winners and losers but wise and otherwise.**

18

Ephesians 4

“¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom **the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part,** causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

Healthy believers manage conflicts with grace and truth.

19