

# War of the Worlds

*Studies in Ephesians*

## I've Got Your Back

Introduction to Ephesians 4:1-16

Whether it's in war or just in our everyday lives, it's good to know someone who will say, "I've got your back". While we can focus on what's in front of us, we need someone who can help protect us from the troubles lurking behind us. That's why we need each other to be able to fully grow to maturity in Christ, which is the theme of this week's study in Ephesians. Paul begins by encouraging the Ephesians to make a commitment to unity. For this commitment to be real there needs to be an internal mindset that leads to unity. The characteristics of this mindset are humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and love, characteristics which enable us to live a life worthy of our high calling from God. Additionally, since we already have oneness in several areas, we must pursue

unity with diligence. This commitment to unity must be joined with a decision to exercise our complementary roles in the body. Each of us has been given a gift by God's grace, each of which is an expression of Christ's victory over sin and Satan. Church leaders are specifically gifted to equip the rest of God's family to minister to those around them, both in the church and in the world. As this occurs, each one doing his or her part, then the body of Christ is built up, and becomes more like Christ in every respect. There is also a third, and very important, element which must be incorporated for full maturity to be achieved, the catalyst of truth. It is so easy for God's people to be carried about by every "wind" of false



**The war is on...  
are you ready?**

teaching unless they are grounded in the truth. However, when truth is spoken in love and every member of the Body works properly, thus supplying what every other member needs, we are all able to grow up into Christ, who is the head of the Body. Then, as we are built up together in love, we have the assurance that no matter what comes our way, we have those standing with us whom we know will say, "I've got your back".

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Study/Discussion Questions for Ephesians 4:1-16

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader_resources))*

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| 1. Read 4:1. What did Paul urge them to do, and what do you think this means? What qualified Paul to ask them to do this?  |  |
| 2. In 4:2-3 list the characteristics that describe the life "worthy of the calling", and what each of these mean to you. What do these characteristics lead to (v3)? |  |
| 3. According to 4:4-6 what things do all believers have in common, and what do each of these refer to? Why, then, is there so much disunity?                         |  |

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## Ephesians 4:1-16 Study Questions (cont)

4. Looking at 4:7-8 what has Christ given to every believer (v8)? Who determined what each of us would get, and how can we apply this?

5. Based on 4:9-10 where did Christ go after His death (v9), and what might this mean? Where did He go after His resurrection (v10), and for what reason?

6. From 4:11-12 what four gifts did Christ give (v11)? For what purpose were they given (v12a), and what is the expected outcome (v12b)? How should we put this into practice?

7. Using 4:13 what should be the ultimate goal of people who go to church together? What do you think this means?

8. According to 4:14 what dangers must believers always beware of? If we aren't, what will happen?

9. Read 4:15. How are we to overcome the dangers that we face as believers? What 2 aspects must we keep in balance, and how do we do this?

10. From 4:16 what is the step by step process by which the church body grows? In what sphere should our growth occur, and what does this mean?

11. Summarize why the commitment to unity, the exercise of each individual's role, and the willingness to speak truth in love are each vital to the growth of the church body.

### Scripture to Remember

***"But, speaking the truth in love we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head."  
Ephesians 4:15***

### ***Celebration Fellowship***

*Reaching—  
Restoring—Raising Up*

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### Life Group Questions—Ephesians 3:14-21

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Let several share their favorite "chick flick" (yes, guys have to participate, too). Why do we love "love" so much?
2. Talk about the difference between love as a feeling, and love as a commitment.
3. Why do we think God's commitment to our best means He wants to steal our fun, bind us up, or make us weird? Which one do you most often lean toward?
4. Discuss why it is true that the only freedom we have is the freedom to choose whom we will serve. How do we know who we are serving, and why does that decision determine the results of our lives?
5. Talk about the 4 dimensions of Christ's love for us—width, length, height, and depth. Which one do you most need to receive right now, and why?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.