



# THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST VS 'THE LIE'

*Scripture Reading:*

**Ephesians 4:20-25**

- The Emphasis of being in the New Man is that we function together effectively.
  - We are not an island unto ourselves!
  - We are not independent from God and other believers in the Body of Christ

## INTRODUCTION

# Our Inter-Dependent Body

**One body - Eph 2:11-15, cf 3:4-6**

**The unity from the Spirit - Eph 4:1-6**

**The building up of the Body of Christ till we ALL arrive  
at the unity of the faith - Eph 4:11-13**

**The process of unified growth - Eph 4:15-16**

# The Interruptive Lie of Independence from God and Other True Believers

- **“The Lie” - Eph 4:25**
  - cf Rom 1:25, Jn 8:44, James 4:13-17
    - Romans 1:25 - “For they exchanged the truth of God for (the) lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

# The Interruptive Lie of Independence from God and Other True Believers

- **“The Deceit” - Eph 4:22 (11x in NT)**
  - Deceit = beguile/ deceive/ delude
    - Demonstration of deceit and delusion - Matt 13:22 deceit of riches (cf I Tim 6:9)
  - Deceit comes from Satan – II Thss 2:9-10
  - Eve: the 1<sup>st</sup> person deceived by Satan – I Tim 2:14
  - The heart is deceitful – Jer 17:9

# The Interruptive Lie of Independence from God and Other True Believers

- **“The Deceit” - Eph 4:22 (11x in NT) *continued***
  - The lusts that come from the deceit: acts of independence from God
    - Walking as Gentiles walk
    - Acting independently from believers of a different race – Eph 2:16
    - Being divisive among believers in a local church – I Cor 1:12-13
      - cf James 2:1-4

# The Inclusive Truth of One (and Only One) Body of Christ, the Church

- Eph 4:25, cf Eph 1:22b-23a
  - Speak truth: I need every believer, especially those next to me in the Body of Christ, and they need me (to be spiritual and growing – Eph 4:16
  - “...We are ALL members one of another...” – Eph 4:25b

# CONCLUSION

- God counts us to have died with Christ to our sin nature, and to have been raised with Christ unto righteousness in Romans 6.
- In Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3, God counts the same opinions as:
  - **“having put off the OLD MAN”** (our former position in Adam with all mankind), AND
  - **“having put on the NEW MAN”** (our new position in Christ with all NT grace-believers)



# CONCLUSION

- **Our responsibility:**

- **To RECKON (count true) God's opinion of us to be true in Rom 6:11**
- **To REFRESH our thinking of this position in Eph 4:23**
- **To REALIZE our inter-dependence in the Body of Christ**