

THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST vs 'THE LIE'

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 4:20-25

◆ This morning, we resume our close inspection of Ephesians 4, verses 22b and 25, in order to understand how The Deceit from The Lie can interrupt and ruin the unity of the one Body of Christ, which is the Church

◆ cf Eph 1:22b-23a

INTRODUCTION

THE LIE

The devil is the father of the lie – Jn 8:44

Satan first lied to himself: “I will be like the Most-High” - Isa 14:12-14

Fallen mankind changed the truth of God into the lie – Rom 1:18,25

The Lie – acting independently from God - James 4:13-17 (illustration)

THE DECEIT

“Deceit” = beguilement; delusion

The 1st deception of a human being: Eve – Gen 3:3-4, cf I Tim 2:4

This deception was caused by The Lie (acting independently of God)

Satan to Eve: “you can be like God, and you won’t really die in so doing”

**INDEPENDENT
ACTIONS
COMING FROM
THE DECEIT
(Eph 4:22b)**

- ◇ All 17 works of the sin nature manifested through the flesh – especially notice:
 - ◇ **strife** (selfishness)
 - ◇ **divisions**
 - ◇ **heresies** (personal choosing)
 - ◇ Gal 5:19-21

CHOOSING
TO ACT
SELFISHLY
RESULTS IN
DIVISIONS

- ◇ Leaving the first purpose, of direction of agape love
 - ◇ Jn 13:33-34, Rev 2:1-4, cf I Jn 3:16-18 and Gal 6:1-2
- ◇ We end up living our lives like “an island unto ourselves” and not like the one unified Body of Christ that is designed by God to build itself up by love (when each member is living in accord with the Holy Spirit = spiritual) - Eph 4:15-17

CONCLUSION

Whether Jew or Gentile, an employer or employee, male or female, we are all one in Christ – Gal 3:28



In Christ - the created One New Man – we are all a “**Chosen Race**”
– 1 Pet 2:9



Therefore, “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, having grace to yourselves (by seeing yourself in Christ), even as God in Christ has had grace toward you” - Eph 4:32