



# THE VISION IS LOVE

## **The Love That Is Binding**

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Ephesians 4:1-6,11-16

Dave Lomas

### **Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow

to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



### **Ephesians 4:15-16**

Speaking the truth in love, *we will grow* to become in every respect the *mature body of him who is the head*, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, *grows and builds itself up in love*, as *each part* does its work.



### **Genesis 3:12**

The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.

### **Genesis 3:16**

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

The human story down the centuries becomes the story of *everyone against everyone*.

Part of being a friend of God involves being part of a *visible* community in which reconciliation of enemies takes bodily form through specific practices led and taught by those gifted in the church and endowed with authority by God.

### **Galatians 3:27-28**

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Religion = riligare (Latin): “to bind together”, “to tie up”



“So perhaps the answer to the widespread disillusion that many, particularly young people, feel toward the church is not less religion and more spirituality but in fact

more religion, more habit, more ritual. That is to say, in a divided and lonely world those who have been called into friendship with Jesus need to be, even in their differences, more bound to each other, not less. The world needs a people who are so closely bound together by the God who is love that they can afford to differ from and with each other and yet still meet at the table of the Eucharist, the feast of their friendship in Christ...The Eucharist of the church, celebrated amid the divisions of the world, is an embodied foretaste of the kingdom, a banquet that makes possible a friendship that dissolves the boundaries of nation and tribe and language, of race and class and gender, rebinding humanity into the one body of Christ, composed of a multitude of members joined together in worship of God.”

- Frederick Bauerschmidt, *The Love That Is God*

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