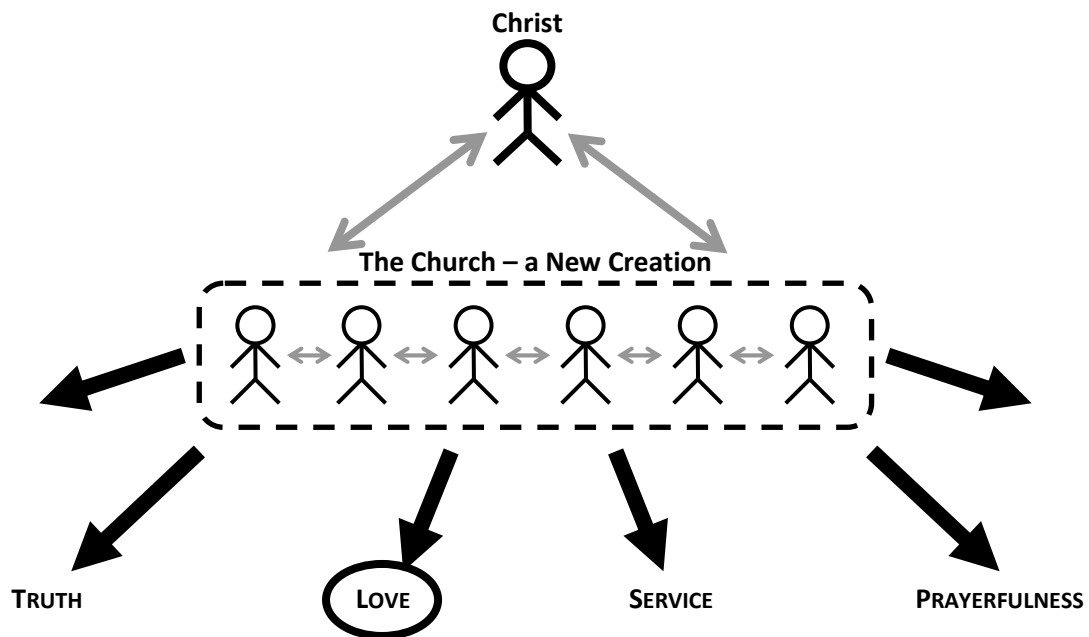


## The Holy Spirit (4) – The Spirit of Love

### Introduction

- The Holy Spirit is re-creating the world
- The Holy Spirit is re-creating God’s image in us
- The Holy Spirit unites us with Christ, the true image of God



### Ephesians 4:20-5:2

1. The basis of our new life is our re-creation in God’s image (4:20-24)
2. The character of our new life is loving unity within the church (4:25-32)
3. The summary of our new life is Christlike love (5:1-2)

<sup>25</sup>Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbour, for we are members one of another.

- How does the command to “speak the truth” reflect the Spirit-given unity of the church?

<sup>26</sup>*Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,* <sup>27</sup>*and give no opportunity to the devil.*

- Have a look at Psalm 4:4 (p. 538). Does this shed any light on what “Be angry and do not sin” means?
- Bearing in mind Ephesians 4:28 and Psalm 4:4, how should we deal with feelings of anger?
- What do you think would happen if we didn’t deal with anger in this way?

<sup>28</sup>*Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

- Why should “the thief no longer steal”?
- How does this passage encourage Christian in paid employment to work hard? How could we put this into practice?

<sup>29</sup>*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

- What factors should affect the sorts of things we say to each other?

<sup>30</sup>*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* <sup>31</sup>*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.* <sup>32</sup>*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

- How do you think v. 30 relates to vv. 31-32?
- What reason does this passage give for us to forgive one another? How does this relate to the unity of the Church with Christ?