

J.J.

LET US BE ONE
Ephesians 4:2-6

Ephesians 4:1-6 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism;⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Pray

INTRODUCTION :

Exercise: Hands together like praying, ask each finger to move from thumb to the pinkie. Then now ask them to fold the middle finger together. Ask them to move each finger again from thumb to pointie, then to ring finger (which will not move)

Lesson : In order for the body to function well, every part must be in harmony with the other parts.

***Declaration :** The church is the most important institution on earth.
The blood-washed, Bible driven church...

Why

***1. It is Christ Himself who instituted it**

Matthew 16 : ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

***2. It is Christ Himself who heads it.**

Ephesians 5:23 ...Christ is the head of the church, His Body...

***3. It is the only institution that will last.**

***Quote :** " "Apart from the church, salvation is impossible." Martin Luther
Why : Because it is through the church, that the Gospel has been entrusted.

THIS IS WHY CHURCH UNITY IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Julius Ceasar once said, "Divide and conquer." (Divide et Impera)

And this is one of the tactics of the enemy so the church will be ineffective and that is to divide.

***Key Verse :** *³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

***1. Church unity is a priority**

³Make every effort

***2. Church unity is to be protected**

to keep the unity of the Spirit

Etymology : to keep – tereo – to guard, to attend carefully

***3. Church unity is achieved by peace.**

through the bond of peace.

Etymology : peace – eirene – harmony

ALL OF US WORKING IN UNISON.

ILLUSTRATION : Imagine an orchestra, all the instruments sounds different from one another but when we follow the notes on the song sheet and then all of them follows the conductor, then there is great music and harmony.

Isn't that wonderful and God is pleased with that.

In this case, the song sheet is the Bible and the conductor is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Question : How are we to keep the unity of the Spirit?

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Lowliness, Meekness, Calmness

I. LOWLINESS

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

KJV : Lowliness

2. MEEKNESS

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Take note : *²Be completely humble and gentle*

Meaning : Be completely humble...Be completely gentle.

KJV : meekness

Etymology : meek – praus – gentleness of spirit

***3. CALMNESS**

*²Be completely humble and gentle; **be patient**, bearing with one another in love.*

Etymology : KJV longsuffering – makrothymas – slowness in avenging word

Question: How do we show patience

*²Be completely humble and gentle; **be patient, bearing with one another in love.***

Etymology : bearing – anecho – endure (Tagalog) pagtiisan natin ang isa`t isa.

How

bearing with one another in love.

Again, see that word “love”. It’s very important word.

Remember again, how people know that we are Christ’s disciples?

*John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.***

What is one of the proofs of our love for one another? UNITY

Song : We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are on in the Spirit, we are one with the Lord. And together we pray that all unity will be restored. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and they’ll know we are Christians by our love...and they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

So last time, we talked about our behavior in order to keep the unity of the Spirit. TODAY, let’s discuss the BASIS of our unity in the Spirit. Or Why should we make every effort to have unity?

. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism;⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

REPRESENTATION, MANIFESTATION, DESTINATION, JURISDICTION, CONVICTION, CONVERSION, DOMINION

I. THE CHURCH IS CHRIST’S REPRESENTATION

**⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism;⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Etymology : body – soma – living body - one that casts a shadow

In short, even if we just see a shadow, we know there’s an object, thing, person there THAT can be seen!!!

The Bible is very clear that the church is the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27 All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.

This is one of the basis of our unity. WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST and that's why we are UNITED to one another. Each of us has a role or a gift that the church needs. But imagine if we are not united and each of us wants to go on our own way.

ILLUSTRATION: Let foot wants to go to the left and the right foot wants to go to the right. It's chaos.

Then you might say, "Pastor, how do we prevent each part of our body going our own way." Simple. WE FOLLOW THE HEAD.

Who is the head? *Ephesians 5:23 ...Christ is the head of the church, His Body...*

If all of us are only looking to follow Christ, to obey Christ, then CHRIST will be the one to lead each one of us for us to function with harmony.

Again, let's follow the notes on the song sheet (the Bible) and look and follow the conductor who is Christ.

ANOTHER THING : We must keep the unity simply because God is seen through the church. Remember, the primary job on why the church is still on earth is to preach the gospel and make disciple of all nations...

Quote : Preach the gospel and if necessary, use words. – Francis of Assisi

What does he mean by that? Remember again, in one word, who is AT THE CENTER OF THE GOSPEL... CHRIST.

What he is saying that CHRIST must be seen in the church so that when the opportunity is there to tell them about CHRIST, then it's easier to believe because we are living like Christ.

Illustration : Let's say Oscar is walking along the street and he slapped another person and the person said, "It's my hand's fault" and then afterwards, he walks along and says to a person walking in the street, "You are ugly and stupid!" And then he says, "Sorry, it's my mouth's fault."

In the same way, Oscar is walking along the street and sees a homeless person and buys the homeless person food and then hugs him. The homeless person says, "Thank you." Will Oscar say, "No it's not me, it's my arm and my hand. Say thank you to my hand."

It's the same way as a church, as the body of Christ. We are part of the body of Christ. It eventually reflects THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH who is Christ.

Quote : "Our conduct is an advertisement for or against Jesus Christ. That's why unity in the body of Christ is so important." - Elizabeth George

II. The church is the SPIRIT'S MANIFESTATION

**4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—
5one Lord, one faith, one baptism;6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and
in all.*

What is manifestation? The reality that something is really there.

ILLUSTRATION : Can we see air? How do we know that the balloon has helium? It's floating or flying. How do we know it's losing helium or the helium is gone? When it's not floating anymore.

Illustration : Ano ang tawag natin sa Pilipinas kapag bumagsak na ang lobo..."nawalan na ng espiritu"...

The basis of our unity is because WE ALL HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US.

How do we know that the Spirit is in the church? PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE BEING CHANGED.

Illustration: I loved the discussion in our Bible study last Friday when people were just exchanging how they became a Christian. For example : Noel was Jehovah's Witness before. Irene was a staunch El Shaddai Charismatic Catholic group and Jett was a Mormon. Tatay Ding said that "he will die as a Catholic" but in the end, he's now living eternally with Christ because he became a Christian. I also remember Tatay Jess. He didn't want to go to church. He was so shy but Nanay Fe kept praying for him and in the end, he was the one urging Nanay Fe and Maribel to go to church with him and now Tatay Jess is living eternally with the Lord.

That is because of the Holy Spirit's work.

Remember this : As a church, the Spirit dwells here. Look at what the Bible says

Ephesians 2:22 In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. – Amplified Bible

God dwells (naninirahan) in the Spirit with us.

I know the Spirit is here with us. You know why? It's because I see the fruit by God's grace when we're together. We have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness and self-control in this church.

III. We have the SAME DESTINATION

**4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—5one Lord, one faith, one baptism;6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Question : What is that hope the Paul was talking about?

Answer: It is the hope that one of these days we will be with our Lord Jesus Christ. That He will soon reign forever and ever – with peace and our bodies redeemed.

Romans 8: 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

As Christians, our hope is that one of these days, we will be with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 2: 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

This is one of the basis of our unity. We have the same destination.

Illustration: Look around you right now. If you are saved, these are the faces that you will spend the rest of your life in eternity.

ILLUSTRATION :

Being much concerned about the rise of denominations in the church, John Wesley tells of a dream he had. In the dream, he was ushered to the gates of Hell. There he asked, “Are there any Presbyterians here?” “Yes,” came the answer. Then he asked, “Are there any Baptists? Any Episcopalians? Any Methodists?” The answer was Yes! each time. Much distressed, Wesley was then ushered to the gates of Heaven. There he asked the same question and the answer was No! “No?” To this Wesley asked, “Who then is inside?” The answer came back, “There are only Christians here.” (1 Cor. 1:10-17) (Source unknown, Lou Nicholes - Missionary/Author).

Next week : We’ll talk about more on why we need to have unity in the church?

S.G.D.