

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. <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism;<sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

*Pray*

**INTRODUCTION :**

Today, we'll discuss the last part of church unity.

There was this church whose main problem is unity. So the pastor asked everyone to organize a church unity workshop. You know what happened? The workshop didn't happen. Why? It's because the church couldn't agree on the date, time and place of the church unity workshop.

**Quote :** The church is the most important institution on earth.

**\*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.**

**\*Key Verse :** *<sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

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

*<sup>3</sup>Make 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.

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

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

**Lowliness, Meekness, Calmness**

**I. LOWLINESS**

*\*<sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

**KJV :** Lowliness

**2. MEEKNESS**

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

**Take note :** *<sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle*

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

**KJV :** meekness

**Etymology :** meek – praus – gentleness of spirit

**\*3. CALMNESS**

*<sup>2</sup>Be 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

*<sup>2</sup>Be 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

**So last time, we talked about our behavior in order to keep the unity of the Spirit.**

**LAST WEEK , we started to discuss the BASIS of our unity in the Spirit. Or Why should we make every effort to have unity?**

*. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism;<sup>6</sup>one 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**

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### **II. The church is the SPIRIT'S MANIFESTATION**

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**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.

**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.

### **III. We have the SAME DESTINATION**

*\*<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism;<sup>6</sup>one 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.

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

Now, we'll continue....

### **IV. We are under the SAME JURISDICTION.**

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

**For the past two Bible studies, we were studying that Christians are fellow servants, fellow citizens and fellow soldiers.**

**It's important to understand that as servants we have one Lord and Master.** As citizens of heaven, we have one Lord and King and as soldiers, we have one Lord and Commander-in-Chief.

**And as soldiers, we have a mission that was commanded to us by our Lord, Master, King and Commander-in-chief** and that is to make disciples of all nations.

*Matthew 28: 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

**It slows us down if we are not united. Why? It defocuses us on our mission.**

Disunity starts when we start looking at each other and judging one another, instead of looking at OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND FOCUSED ON ACCOMPLISH HIS COMMISSION.

**That's why the Bible said :**

*Romans 14:4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

**Note:** When we judge others, we are putting ourselves in a position higher than that person.

**Let's remember, when we are in church, we are here to serve God and serve one another.**

**Story :** There was this general who saw two soldiers fighting in the trenches. He got both soldiers in the trenches and said to them while pointing to the enemy line, "Brothers, the enemy is out there."

In our Bible study, we talked about being fellow soldiers. It is very important to remember this...

*Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

**Remember, when we are fighting each other in church, we are not against each other that's the work of the enemy! REMEMBER, the devil's strategy is to divide and conquer.**

**Note :** If we are focused on serving God and one another and if we are focused on fulfilling God's mission to us to make disciples, we will always be united.

#### **V. We have the same CONVICTION**

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

**One faith means we have the same belief.**

What are our core beliefs? Remember, it's important for us.

**Again, in our Bible study, we had a good discussion regarding our core beliefs as Christians vs other beliefs.**

The only time the church should have a major disagreement is if it affects those core beliefs.

Example :

- If a person believes that Jesus is not God, that's a major issue.
- If a person does not believe that the Bible is the supreme authority when it comes to our faith, doctrine and conduct - that's a major issue.
- If a person believes that the way to heaven is by being a good person, that's an issue because salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in who Jesus Christ is (Lord) and that He died on the cross to pay for our sins (Saviour)
- If a person does not believe in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that's an issue. By the way, Mormons do not believe in the Trinity. They believe there are three distinct Gods – separate beings.

**Now the problem with churches is they fight over the flimsiest reason....**

**Illustration:** I grew up in a time of Christianity when bands are being introduced in worship service instead of hymns and churches were being divided because of that.

**Good rule of thumb:**

In the essentials – unity

In the non-essentials – liberty

In all things – charity

**Story:** I shared with you the story of Zak's best friend. A few years ago, he had a girlfriend and he loves his girlfriend so much that they were talking about marriage already. They are both Christians. But of course, before getting married, they started talking about some essential beliefs and he found out that his girlfriend sees nothing wrong with same sex marriage and abortion. They really had a heart to heart talk about

it because the Bible is very clear on this issue. Remember, the Bible is the supreme authority for our beliefs and doctrine. He had to make a hard decision of agreeing to go on separate ways because of that. His love for the Lord is higher than his love for his girlfriend. Now, he is engaged with another Christian and they share the same core beliefs.

#### **VI. We underwent the SAME CONVERSION**

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

Baptism : “baptizo” in Greek which means to immerse.

In order to understand, let’s go to the etymology of this.

**Etymology:** The clearest example that shows the meaning of baptizo is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words.

Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (baptô) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (baptizô) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptising the vegetable, produces a permanent change.

**It is to make a change...there’s a permanent change. What is the change?** In your belief and in your nature.

In short, lahat tayo started on the same footing : we are all sinners that received forgiveness from God through Christ. **That’s our conversion.**

*\*Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.*

*Romans 5: 8But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Ephesians 2 : 8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9not by works, so that no one can boast*

**In short, how did you become a Christian** is it because you are attending church every Sunday and doing good works...no we are all sinners who believed in what Jesus Christ did on the cross to pay for our sins and that’s why we became a Christian.

**That’s why when you were baptized, you were declaring to the world,** “I am declaring to the world that I now truly believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour and it is Him whom I follow.” That change happened inside of you.

**Note :** By the way, if you haven't been baptized yet and you are already a believer, you need to be baptized. There will be baptism in the summer camp to those who want to be baptized.

**Demonstrate again what happens during baptism.** While standing on the water, that symbolizes the old you. When you were immersed/baptized in the water, that symbolizes that the old you is already dead. When you come out of the water, that symbolizes, you are now a creation in Christ.

## **7. We are under one dominion**

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

**In short :** As believers, we are worshipping the same God....*one God.*

**Take note :** ...*AND Father...*lahat tayong believers...magkakapatid...for eternity. That's the difference when it comes to our Christian identity... WE HAVE GOD AS OUR FATHER.

## **Again, how do we become God's children?**

*John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

**We have to remember IF GOD IS OUR FATHER, WE ARE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS. IT MEANS WE ARE ONE FAMILY HERE.**

*\*Matthew 12 : <sup>46</sup>While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him.<sup>47</sup>Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."<sup>[a]</sup>*

*<sup>48</sup>He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" <sup>49</sup>Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup>For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

## **That's why the Bible calls the church a household.**

*Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

**Illustration :** It was Zak's birthday yesterday. But we celebrated it 2 weeks ago. Usually, when I go to Montreal, I have a one-on-one with him and we go out for brunch. This time, we talked about him starting now his own family since he will become a father. In our conversation, I told him that there will be times that family is full of loving and joy and laughter but there will always be time that family will be messy and there will be misunderstanding and fights, disagreements and quarrels.

This past 2 days alone, I made my relationship with my own son Zak, messy. And it was trivial on my part that I made a big deal out of it. Of course, he told his sister and I realize that I acted like a fool. I was in the wrong.

**GOD'S FOOL** In the morning, I was crying because I was thinking that now my kids think of me as a fool. (My son assured me he didn't but still I was thinking they are thinking that way because of what I did.) Then I asked our Father in heaven, "Do you also think of me as a fool too? You know he answered deep into my heart and He said to me. "Yes, you are a fool but you are "my" fool." It means, no matter what happens, I still love you, you are mine even if you make a fool of yourself.

I said sorry to my son and then I reminded him about our brunch conversation that family can be messy but then I added, but the thing is, it's "our" messy. What I meant is, yes it's messy but we still belong to each other.

Now in our disagreement which was entirely my fault, Zak even honored me by asking if our relationship is still ok and then I remembered my promise to him and my promise to my kids ever since they were young, "There is nothing you can do that will make me stop loving you."

**And that is what I want to encourage each and every one of us.** Yes, there are times DCF will be full of love and joy and peace but there will be time that we might disagree and even be annoyed at each other simply because we are dealing with imperfect people. But in the end of the day, kung nakukulitan ka sa kapatid mo sa church, never forget to say, "Nakukulitan ako sayo but know that you are "my" makulit." Or you get hurt or offended by someone in the church, but still you can tell them, "I got hurt with what you said or what you did, but rest assure, that there's nothing you can do that will make me stop loving you, simply because you are my brother or sister in the Lord."

At the end of the day, we have

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

**This means God is in control of everything!!! And He is "In all".** That's why we should never fight each other and we should be one - **It's because it is crucial in our mission.**

**That's why our Lord Jesus Christ prayed.**

*John 17: 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

**You see our being united is crucial in God's plan in order for our mission which is to save souls...let's never forget that.**

**CONCLUSION :**

**Illustration :** Consistently voted as one of the most epic scenes in movie history is the Avengers Endgame.

(Show movie)

Let me frame this to you... they were only 3 of them left... Captain America, Iron Man and Thor and the enemy who is powerful has Thanos who is so powerful and very organized with millions surrounding them. The three were already tired but in the verge of defeat, this is what happened... (show movie)

I said at the start of the series that the church is the most important institution on earth. **But let me also say that the church is the most powerful institution on earth. It's because GOD IS WITH US, GOD IS IN US AND GOD WORKS THROUGH US IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THE GREATEST MISSION HERE ON EARTH – THE SALVATION OF SOULS.**

*<sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

And when we do, by the power of the Holy Spirit!!!! As our Lord Jesus Christ said....  
*Matthew 16:18 I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

**S.G.D.**