

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 :**

**Story 1 :** A pastor asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

**Story 2 :** A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

Today, by God's grace, this sermon won't be long. It's a 2 part series about the unity of the church.

But before anything else, let me remind everyone.

**\*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 : <sup>18</sup>And 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.

*\*Read :*

*\*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*

Notice : After explaining all the riches and exhorting us to live a life according to the calling of what we have received, he turns attention to the church.

Part of our priority as Christians after our relationship with God and with our family is our relationship with our spiritual family – the church.

\*Proof 2 :

*<sup>3</sup>Make every effort*

**Etymology** : -make every effort – spoudazo – make haste... do everything.

**Meaning** : So, it's not only to make every effort, it's a priority

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

*to keep the unity of the Spirit*

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

**Illustration** : Farmville in Facebook. When you don't tend your farm, your crop dies.

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

*through the bond of peace.*

**Etymology** : peace – eirene – harmony

**Important** : Having peace in the church and in our own lives means that God is really heading this church

*\*Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

*\*Romans 12 : <sup>8</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

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

**Lowliness, Meekness, Calmness**

**I. LOWLINESS**

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

**KJV** : Lowliness

**Ice Breaker :** ``I am a humble person. In fact, I've already perfected humility. I am the embodiment of humility``.

**Note :** This is the only virtue that when you think you have it...you have already lost it.

**What is NOT humility?** It is not having a low opinion of oneself.

**\*C.S. Lewis wrote :** *Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call "humble" nowadays; he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap **who took a real interest in what you said to him...** He will not be thinking about humility: **he will not be thinking about himself at all.***

**\*Biblical Basis :**

*Philippians 2: <sup>1</sup>If you have any encouragement from being **united with Christ**, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, **having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.** <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but **in humility consider others better than yourselves.** <sup>4</sup>Each of you **should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.***

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup>but **made himself nothing,**  
**taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,**  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man,  
**he humbled himself**  
**and became obedient to death—**  
**even death on a cross!**

**In short :**

A completely humble person is one who doesn't think about himself but thinks of others first.

## **2. Gentleness**

<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

**Quote** : Meek people are powerful people. Why? It's because they can control themselves. They can control their emotions. They can control their mouth. They can control their reactions.

**Why?** They can control themselves

*\* Proverbs 25:28 <sup>28</sup> Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.*

*Proverbs 29:11 <sup>11</sup> A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.*

**Confession** : When I was a new Christian and my mother knew this. She became angry and wrote me a very hurtful letter. I was proud and rough to my mother when I was defending my faith. Proud by saying, I know better than you. Rough by insulting her back.

**Quote** : I heard someone said, ``In a disagreement, the objective is not to win the debate but to win people to your side.``

**True** : We have to defend our faith and convince people about the truth. But as Chuck Swindoll said that he has never seen anyone come to Christ by hammering them.

**A good thing to remember:**

Be gentle when you are right.

Be gentle when you are wronged.

**\*Question** : Why should we be completely humble and gentle

**Answer** :

**\*a.** It is the essence of Christ

*Matthew 11: <sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Our ultimate goal is to be Christ-like.

**\*b.** Many people we meet are always on the edge, full of problems and therefore needs encouragement. The reason a lot of people go to church is to find comfort in the Word of God and encouragement from others.

*Isaiah 42 : <sup>3</sup> A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.*

Explain further please.

**Remember this :**

We do not push people away, we pull them to our side.

We do not put down, we lift them up.

**\*3. Patience**

***<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.***

**Question :** Do you love God. If yes...

***1 John 4: <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.***

**Story :** According to a traditional Hebrew story, Abraham was sitting outside his tent one evening when he saw an old man, weary from age and journey, coming toward him. Abraham rushed out, greeted him, and then invited him into his tent. There he washed the old man's feet and gave him food and drink. The old man immediately began eating without saying any prayer or blessing. So Abraham asked him, "Don't you worship God?"

The old traveler replied, "I worship fire only and reverence no other god." When he heard this, Abraham became incensed, grabbed the old man by the shoulders, and threw him out his his tent into the cold night air.

When the old man had departed, God called to his friend Abraham and asked where the stranger was. Abraham replied, "I forced him out because he did not worship you." God answered, "I have suffered him these eighty years although he dishonors me. Could you not endure him one night?"

**CONCLUSION :**

At the end of the day, it all boils down to love.

**Story :** There was an old lady who went to church but she lives 3 hours away from the church. That she has to wake up 6 a.m. on Sundays to prepare and make sure that she'll be in church in time for the 10 a.m. worship service.

So one time, her children asked her, "Why do you go to that church when it's 3 hours away from your house?" the old lady replied, "Because they love me there."

If we truly love God and others, then we will be able to keep the unity of the church.

Next week, we'll talk about why we need to keep the unity of the church by God's grace.

S.G.D.