

## UNITY IN THE BODY

Ephesians 4:1-6

I. **EXHORTATION** (1)—live out the implications of the gospel in community of the church

A. **A Prisoner for the Lord** (1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:17, 23)

1. **Christians should expect persecution.** ( Lk 9:20-23; 2 Tim 3:12;
  - a. **To Be Like Our Lord** (Mat 10:24-25; Heb 13:13)
  - b. **As Part of Our Witness** (1 Pet 3:14-17)—ready to answer
  - c. **As a Great Honor** (Act 5:42; Phil 1:29; 2 Thes 1:4-5; )—like prophets
  - d. **For Great Rewarded.** (Mat 5:11-12)—in heaven
  
2. **Christians should do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.** (Phil 4:11-13; Col 3:17, 23)—for His glory and kingdom
  - a. **Recognizing God's Sovereignty** (1 Thes 5:16, 18)
  - b. **Trusting in God's Plan** (Gen 50:19-20; Jer 29:11)
  - c. **As a Sacrifice of Love** (Rom 12:1; 2 Tim 4:6; 1 Pet 2:19)

B. **Urging rather than Commanding**

1. Prefers to appeal and inspire
2. Models the behavior he is commending

C. **Live up to Your Calling** (Eph 2:1-2, 10)—act like it

1. **The Calling** — to be His holy people; God's initiative, prior action
2. **Walking the Walk** (Ps 1; Eph 2:1-2, 10)— Respond, living it out. Own it.
3. **A Worthy Manner**—fitting, proper, appropriate to your new identity and the glorious position to which you are called

II. **MAINTAINING UNITY AND PEACE** (2-3)—created by Holy Spirit, now walk in it and live it out

A. **Be Eager to:** (3)—sense of urgency; *get on it now!*

1. **Maintain Unity**—continuing, intentional work of upkeep
2. **Keep the Peace** (Ps 34:14)—both internal and external
  - a. **Be peaceable yourself**—not quarrelsome, meddling, easily offended, divisiveness etc...

**b. Pursue peace with others**—guard, maintain, pursue things that promote peace (not peace at any cost)

**B. The Necessary Virtues** (2)—peace cannot survive without these graces

1. **Humility** (Mat 11:29 & 20:28; Jn 13:12-16; Act 20:19; Phil 2:8; Jam 4:6/1 Pet 5:5)—lowliness, opposite of pride

2. **Gentleness** (Mat 11:29; 21:5/Zec 9:9; 2 Cor 10:1; Gal 5:23; 1 Tim 6:11; 1 Pet 3:4)—meekness; considerate, deliberate self-control of power.

3. **Patience** (Mat 18:23-25; 1 Cor 13:4; Gal 5:22; 1 Thes 5:14; 2 Pet 3:9)—bearing with the weaknesses and foibles of others

4. **Love** (Jn 15:12-13; 1 Cor 13; Eph 3:17; Col 3:14; 1 Jn 4:8)—the motive, the virtue behind the other virtues

**III. THE BASIS OF OUR UNITY** (4-6)—unifying realities of the faith

**A. One Body** (Eph 1:22-23; 2:15-16)—Christ's Body, the Church

**B. One Spirit** (Jn 3:5-8, Rom 8:15-16; Eph 2:18; )—The Holy Spirit

**C. One Hope**—hope in Jesus for what He promises in the gospel, eternal life

**D. One Lord** (Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 12:3)—Jesus Christ, Head over church

**E. One Faith** (1 Cor 16:13; 2 Tim 4:7; Jude 1:3; )—the Christian Faith; the objective, essential body of Apostolic doctrine

**F. One Baptism** (Mat 3:11; Mk 10:38; Act 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; )—baptism into Christ; our spiritual union with Christ, set apart for Him as holy

**G. One God** (Deut 6:4)—monotheism was basic tenant of Jewish faith

1. **Father Of All** ( Eph 3:14)—all the elect, those in Christ; position of authority in family; source of shared identity

2. **Over All** (Rom 9:5)—God's Authority; Master and Judge

3. **Through All** (Mk 9:38-40)—working through all His people and all circumstances

4. **In All** (1 Cor 3:16; Mat 18:20; Ps 14:5)—God's Spirit dwells in all of His chosen and redeemed—**individually** and **corporately** as the Church