

OUR FIRST CALLING: GUARDING THE UNITY

- I. The walk of every Christian is to fit or harmonize with the vocation wherewith you are called.
 - A. We are called out ones (the church) who are to display the glory of God (3:21).
 - B. A worthy walk is a life which is suitable to, matches and does not clash with what we believe (cf. Titus 2:1).
 - C. So important that Paul “beseeches,” i.e., urgently asks, implores.
- II. God is glorified first when His Spirit’s unity is preserved.
 - A. A unity made by the Spirit is first spiritual (internal), but it does express itself visibly and externally.
 1. It is a unity of the Holy Spirit, not a unity made by man.
 2. This unity is experienced only by those in whom the Spirit dwells and enlightens.
 - B. The unity of the Spirit makes for “one body.”
 - C. The end of the Spirit’s work is to lead us to the “one hope of your calling” (cf. 1:18; 13b with 14a).
 - D. Together we have one God the Father and one Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 8:6).
 - E. Our “one faith” is the faith by which we are righteous together.
- III. Our duty with respect to this unity is to do our utmost to guard it against breaking.
 - A. “Endeavor is to make every effort, diligently and urgently.
 - B. We are to guard or preserve the unity against all the efforts to destroy it.
 - C. The manner is with “all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.”
 - D. The unity of the Spirit is bound together in peace.