

Unity in the Bond of Peace (Ephesians 4: 1-3)

- Ephesians 4 emphasizes the importance of striving to live from the inside out
- Paul is urging the Ephesian believers to become what they are in Christ Jesus
- God has called us to “walk in new life in Christ,” a life worthy of Christ (Eph 2:10)
- Apart from new life in Christ, life imparted by the Holy Spirit, we cannot serve God

I. The Christian Call to Unity

- A vital sign of Christian growth is the reality and presence of unity (vs.3)
- Paul says this was a key reason for God sending His Son to save sinners (Eph 1:10)
- Key objective of salvation, is to reunite, restore, the unity with God before the fall
- The unity of Jews & Gentiles in Christ, is a mystery which is now revealed (2:13-16)
- It is God’s grand design, it displays God’s glory more than any thing else does
- In striving to walk worthy of the calling with which we are called, unity is critical

II. A Biblical Definition of Unity

- Paul is not here appealing for some general spirit of friendship, good old togetherness
- Neither is he appealing for some common aim or goal that gets everyone on board.
- He is appealing for a unity that is the culmination of all that he has said in chapter 1-3
- Paul begins chapter 4: 1 “therefore” in the light of such great doctrines or truths
- Unity is Holy Spirit wrought and its foundation is that of the truth of God’s Word
- It cannot be manufactured it is a work that only the Holy Spirit can do in us
- Unity cannot be understood apart from a right understanding of the Holy Spirit’s work
- If the Holy Spirit is in you and in me, we immediately recognize it in one another

III. The Beauty and Mystery of Unity in the Holy Spirit

- Eph 2, Paul illustrates this, he says, as Gentiles were separated from God, far off (12)
- But through Christ, the Holy Spirit has broken down these barriers (not politics) (14)
- Unity produced by the Holy Spirit, primarily spiritual, unseen and eternal
- Naturally it is seen externally, but it begins within & proceeds to work itself out in us

IV. The Glorifying Fruit of the Unity of the Spirit

- Vs 3 does not call for any action on our part, but we are called to jealously preserve it
- The first words in vs. 3 describe our internal attitude the rest describe our relationship
- Will all ‘humility’ and ‘gentleness’ ‘with patience’ ‘forbearing with one another’
- These fruits are expressions that we are striving to maintain unity in the bond of peace