#### **Endeavouring to Keep the Unity—Part 1**

III: The	Behind Our Endeavouring: v4-6
In our routine of kee	ping the unity of the Spirit, we are mostly
looking at being unif	ied with one another by not allowing per-
sonalities and prefer	ences to divide us. But in v4-6, Paul now
turns to some key do	octrinal areas that we are to be unified in.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (John 17:20-23)

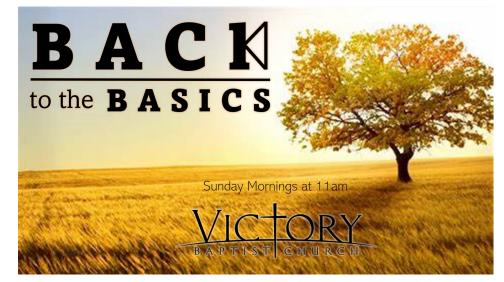
The Christian's work to keep the unity of the Spirit in the church is not in vain. People may align themselves with a cause, or a philosophy, or an ideology, or even another Christian such as well-known pastor, but their work is in vain because all of these things are unreliable.

Paul calls for unity in the Church because the moment we were saved ... in the same way, by believe in the same Jesus, Who died on the same cross, was buried in the same tomb, rose again the same day in the same way, etc., <u>we</u> didn't align ourselves with God but rather *He* aligned us to Himself.

And so our endeavoring is worth the effort because God can never change and there is nothing, either on this earth or beyond this earth, that is more reliable, more trustworthy, than God Almighty—Who is immune to disunity because the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost are One (1 John 5:7).

The Devil seeks to divide us and separate us from one another and from a sweet fellowship with the Lord. Let's not open the door for the devil in our church by letting pettiness, grievances, emotions, envy, anger, bitterness or anything else to divide us.

Instead, let's endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.



## September 3, 2023

# Endeavouring to Keep the Unity—Part 1 Ephesians 4:1-13

This morning we begin a two-part series on church unity. Outside of our work to lead others to Christ, I believe that the next most important work is the work of unity because when a church becomes divided then all other ministries and work is negatively affected.

The fact of the matter is, the Lord demands and desires that His church be unified. And so, it greatly grieves the Holy Spirit when problems or issues arise in a church which causes that church to become divided and separate. He would far prefer His children would endeavour (work) to keep the unity of THE SPIRIT in the bond of peace.

Over the next couple of weeks we will look at this passage and determine exactly what it means to *endeavour to the keep* the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.


### **Endeavouring to Keep the Unity—Part 1**

Paul begins this pas	We Endeavour: v1 ssage by using the word "therefore" to con- lready written in previous chapters of Ephe- is about to write.
• prisoner = Because of all that sus Christ, we have other words, we m ject to Him. And re unity, Jesus said a you: not as the wor	to Christ captive / in bonds we have been given through our faith in Jenow bonded ourselves to the Lord Jesus. In ake ourselves His prisoner and are now subgarding unity and the peace that comes with Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto rld giveth, give I unto you. Let not your neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)
for day-to-d	appropriately = invitation
in the bond of peac our King, and our G	e to endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit e because Jesus, our Saviour, our Master, and expects us to walk appropriately accord—and walking in unity rather than division is te.

### **Endeavouring to Keep the Unity—Part 1**

becomes how are	For Our Endeavouring: v2-3 w the reasons to endeavour, the question we to go about the business of practicing, rengthening our unity, especially when we all ent backgrounds?
smallness	routinely walk  ss = humiliation of mind. It gives the sense of insignificance— while at the same time see orth and value of others
	is different than humility. Meekness is to iscipline of emotion
C. with • longsufj long temp	fering means to be patient and endure; to be ered
-	ing for one another ing = putting up with gape Unconditionally
<b>peace</b> means tha humility, meekne	keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of the each and every one of us routinely makes ss, patience, and agape love as the driving ersations, attitudes, and in our relationships.