

Endeavouring to Keep the Unity—Part 1

III: The _____ Behind Our Endeavouring: v4-6

In our routine of keeping the unity of the Spirit, we are mostly looking at being unified with one another by not allowing personalities and preferences to divide us. But in v4-6, Paul now turns to some key doctrinal 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., **we** 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.***

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I: The _____ We Endeavour: v1

Paul begins this passage by using the word “*therefore*” to connect what he has already written in previous chapters of Ephesians with what he is about to write.

We are...

A. _____ to Christ

- **prisoner** = *captive / in bonds*

Because of all that we have been given through our faith in Jesus Christ, we have now bonded ourselves to the Lord Jesus. In other words, we make ourselves His prisoner and are now subject to Him. And regarding unity and the peace that comes with unity, Jesus said ... ***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*** (John 14:27)

B. _____

- **walk** literally means *walk* ... but it is also a metaphor for day-to-day living
 - **worthy** = *appropriately*
 - **vocation** = *invitation*
 - **called** = *salvation*
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As a church, we are to *endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace* because Jesus, our Saviour, our Master, our King, and our God expects us to walk appropriately according to our salvation—and walking in unity rather than division is certainly appropriate.

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II: The _____ For Our Endeavouring: v2-3

Now that we know the reasons to endeavour, the question becomes how are we to go about the business of practicing, protecting and strengthening our unity, especially when we all come from different backgrounds?

Christians should routinely walk...

A. with _____

- **lowliness** = *humiliation of mind*. It gives the sense of smallness, insignificance— while at the same time seeing the worth and value of others
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B. with _____

Meekness is different than humility. Meekness is to exercise discipline of emotion

C. with _____

- **longsuffering** means *to be patient and endure; to be long tempered*
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D. exercising _____ for one another

- **forbearing** = *putting up with*
 - **love** = *agape ... Unconditionally*
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Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace means that each and every one of us routinely makes *humility, meekness, patience, and agape love* as the driving force in our conversations, attitudes, and in our relationships.
