

## Unity (Part 2)

- A Study of Ephesians 4:1-6

### The disposition necessary for oneness in Christ. (verses 2-3)

#### ***"forbearing one another in love"***

- ▶ *"Forbearing"* *anechomai* "to hold oneself up against, i.e. (figuratively) put up with" (Strong)
- Mark 9:19 in the exasperated question of Jesus, *"How long am I to bear with you?"*
- ▶ *"In love"* (*agape* - 116 times in the New Testament).
- ▶ ***Agape is not "heart" love; it is "head" love. It is a premeditated principle by which one lives as he attempts to operate in the noblest interest of others.***
- ▶ It is extremely difficult to act with *agape* towards those we do not particularly like—who may, in fact, be somewhat repulsive. 1 John 4:10-11
- ▶ Nonetheless, by the command to *"love,"* we are challenged to persistently act in the genuine welfare of others.

### The disposition necessary for oneness in Christ. (verses 2-3)

#### ***"giving diligence"***

- spoudazo* - eleven times in the New Testament. It carries the idea of constantly striving to put forth one's very best effort
- "Make every effort ..."* NIV  
*"Eager to maintain ..."* ESV  
*"Endeavouring ..."* KJV
- ▶ **It reflects the sustained zeal that Christians must have for the promotion of unity.**

### The disposition necessary for oneness in Christ. (verses 2-3)

#### ***"to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."***

- "Unity of the Spirit."* Unity that is sought and initiated by the Holy Spirit - by means of His influence through the word of God.  
 Ephesians 6:17
- "Bond of peace."* *syndesmos* is that which binds together, as ligaments do for the human body. cf. Colossians 2:19; 3:14.
- ▶ **It is the very opposite of that rancorous attitude that "spoils for a good fight," and always seems to be in the middle of one.**

### The attitude necessary for oneness in Christ. (verses 2-3)

#### ***"giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."***

- "Peace"* (*eirene* - ninety-two times in the New Testament) is a term of marvelous flavor. *"to weave together."* (Barclay)
- Amos 3:3, ***"Shall two walk together, except they have agreed?"***
- ▶ It has a variety of uses. Ephesians 2:14-17
    - The relationship of being reconciled with God. Romans 5:1
    - Tranquility with other people. Hebrews 12:14
    - An inward aura of mental serenity. Philippians 4:7

### Conclusion (of Part 1):

- ▶ It is clear to see that this chorus of qualities, if engaged by the people of God, will create an atmosphere wherein the redemptive plan of Christ can operate smoothly.
- ▶ Surely every genuine Christian desires to see this state prevail in the body of Christ.

## The platform that is the basis of unity. (verses 4–6)

*“(There is) one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.”*

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## The Basis Of Unity (Ephesians 4:4–6)

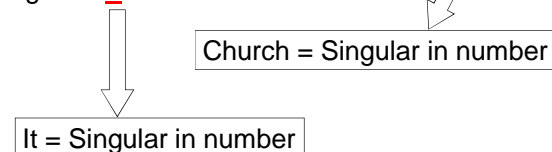
### ONE BODY ...

- ▶ The body of Christ, the church – Ephesians 1:22–23; 1 Corinthians 12:12–13; Matthew 16:18
- ▶ Paul speaks here of the church in the “universal” sense.
  - The “body” of saved believers throughout the world
  - Of which Christ is the “head,” and “savior of the body” – Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18
- ▶ While there may be many “local” churches (congregations), there is only ONE “universal” church, with ONE “head” – Jesus Christ!

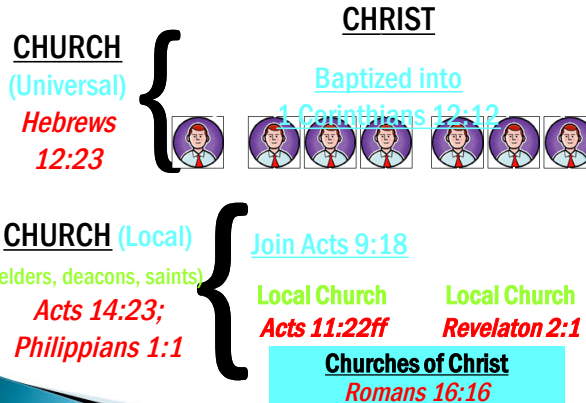
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### Matthew 16:18

“And I also say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My **church**; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against **it**.”



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## The Basis Of Unity (Ephesians 4:4–6)

### ONE SPIRIT ... cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9–13

- a. “*The Holy Spirit of promise*” – Ephesians 1:13–14
- b. By whom both Jew and Gentile have access to the Father – Ephesians 2:18
- c. By whom the “*mystery of Christ*” was revealed to the apostles and prophets – Ephesians 3:5
- d. Through whom God strengthens with might the inner man – Ephesians 3:16
- e. As the One whose “unity” is to be maintained in the bond of peace – Ephesians 4:3

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## The Basis Of Unity (Ephesians 4:4–6)

### ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING ... Colossians 1:5; Hebrews 6:19; Titus 1:2

Hope is defined as “*desire with expectation of obtaining what is desired.*”  
Acts 23:6; 24:15; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:19–23; Philippians 3:10–11, 20–21

**Power of HOPE: Romans 8:24–25**

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## What The Christian's Hope Is:

- ▶ Appearing of the glory of Christ.  
**Titus 2:13; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16**
- ▶ Raised by the power of Christ.  
**1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:28f**
- ▶ United with the person of Christ.  
**1 Thessalonians 4: 17; Philippians 1:23**
- ▶ Conformed to the image of Christ. **1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Philippians 3:20-21**
- ▶ Eternity in the presence of Christ.  
**1 Thessalonians 4:17; John 14:3**

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## The Basis Of Unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)

### ONE LORD ...

- ▶ Jesus of Nazareth – 1 Corinthians 8:5-6
- ▶ Whom God has made “both Lord and Christ” – Acts 2:36; 10:36, 43
- ▶ Authority. Matthew 28:18; 17:1-5
  - No man spoke with such authority. Matthew 7:29

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## The Basis Of Unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)

### ONE FAITH ... cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10; 4:17

1. This the body of truth, **“the faith,”** which Jude says was **“once for all delivered to the saints”** **Jude 3**  
The gospel. Galatians 1  
The doctrine. Acts 13; 2 John 9
2. It is that **“pattern of sound words”** of that Paul taught Timothy (2 Timothy 1:13), and which he was to commit to faithful men (2 Timothy 2:2)
3. We find this **“pattern of sound words”** in the pages of the New Testament.

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## The Basis Of Unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)

### ONE BAPTISM ...

1. This is the baptism ...
  - a. Commanded by Jesus – Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
  - b. Preached and commanded by His apostles – Acts 2:38; 10:48
  - c. By which those who submit to are added to the Lord's body, the church – Acts 2:42,47
2. The baptism in which a penitent believer is immersed in water for the remission of sins – Acts 2:38

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## Bible Baptisms

- Baptized into Moses. 1 Corinthians 10:2
- Baptism of John. Mark 1:4; Acts 19:3-4
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 3:11
- Baptism of fire. Matthew 3:11
- Baptism of suffering. Matthew 20:22-23
- Baptism for the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:29
- Baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 19:5

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- Salvation, Mark 16:16
- Remission of sins, Acts 2:38
- Washing, Acts 22:16
- Calling on Lord, Acts 22:16
- Christ's death, Romans 6:3
- Putting off sin, Romans 6:4
- New creature, 2 Corinthians 5:17
- In Christ, Galatians 3:27
- Cleansing, Ephesians 5:26
- Sanctification, Ephesians 5:26
- Kingdom, John 3:5
- Promise, Acts 2:38-39
- Body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Wearing name, 1 Corinthians 1:13
- All Sp. blessings, Ephesians 1:3

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## The Basis Of Unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)

### ONE GOD AND FATHER ...

1. The Father - Who together with the Son and Holy Spirit, makes up the "Godhead"
2. Note that Paul emphasizes both:
  - a. His personality ("**Father of all**") Created all. cf. Acts 17:26
  - b. His transcendence and omnipresence. "**above all**" (1 Corinthians 15:24-25), and through all (and "**in you all**")

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## The Basis Of Unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)

- ▶ One God ... Unity In Worship
- ▶ One Lord ... Unity In Authority
- ▶ One Spirit ... Unity In Revelation
- ▶ One Faith ... Unity In Message
- ▶ One Baptism ... Unity In Practice
- ▶ One Body ... Unity In Organization
- ▶ One Hope ... Unity In Desire

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