

## Unity With Christians

John 17:20-23

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## Unity Maintained – Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 1 – Unity is IN CHRIST. (1:3)

1. Heard – Ephesians 1:13; Romans 10:17
2. Believed – Ephesians 1:13; Acts 19:5, 18
3. Repented – Acts 19:19; 20:21
4. Confessed – Acts 19:18; Romans 10:9-10
5. Baptized – Acts 19:5; 2:38

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## Unity Maintained – Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 2 – Unity is based upon THE FOUNDATION (Apostles and prophets).

1. “Dead in ... sin” Alive in Christ (2:5)
2. “Reconciled” in Christ. (2:14-16)
3. Preached Christ. (2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:11)

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## Unity Maintained – Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 3 – Unity by THE GOSPEL.

1. Preached to Gentiles. (3:2-6)
2. “Unsearchable riches of Christ.” (3:8)
  - Previous generations did not know. Ephesians 3:3-5, 9
  - Prophets and angels did not know. 1 Peter 1:10-12
  - Wisdom of man could not reveal it. 1 Corinthians 1:18ff; cf. Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12

*1 Corinthians 2:7-13, “revealed through the Spirit ... that we might know ...”*

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## Unity Maintained – Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 4 “KEEP THE UNITY ...”

Who is to keep the unity?

- a. Those united “in Christ” upon the basis of the word of Christ!
- b. Those who heard and obeyed “the word of truth.” (1:13)
- c. Those placed squarely “upon the foundation.” (2:20)
- d. Those who accepted the preaching of “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” (3:8)
- e. NO ONE ELSE!

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## Unity Maintained – Ephesians 1-4

How can these “keep the unity?”

- a. By keeping Christ and his word. This keeps Christians one with Christ. cf. John 8:31
- b. Unity with Christ and his people is broken when one persists in believing, practicing and teaching things not found in “the word of truth!”
- c. To embrace the doctrines of men is to slip off “the foundation” and out of the “unity of the spirit” and to depart from the “unsearchable riches of Christ.”

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## Unity Maintained – Ephesians 1-4

### Ephesians 4:4-6

*One God* - Unity in Worship - Revelation 22:9; Matthew 4:10; John 4:24.

*One Lord* - Unity in Authority - Matthew 28:19; Colossians 3:17.

*One Faith* - Unity in Message - Jude 3.

*One Baptism* - Unity in Practice - Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13.

*One Body* - Unity in Organization - 1 Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:25.

*One Hope* - Unity in Desire - Hebrews 6:19; 1 Corinthians 15:19; Romans 8:24-25.

*One Spirit* - Unity in Revelation - John 16:13.

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