

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: Unity & You

Passage: Ephesians 4:1-6

Illustration:

Need: Because of who we are in Christ, we have been called to a conduct and character marked by Unity.

I. Fitting Conduct (4:1)

- Urge you to walk in a manner = strong appeal to one's life choices, conduct, lifestyle.
- Worthy of the calling = consistent with or because of who you are in Christ. NOT to be worthy.

II. Walkway to Unity (4:2-3)

- Humility = lowliness of mind. Christ 1st, others 2nd, yourself last (Phil. 2:3).
- Gentleness = outward manifestation of humility.
- Patience = exercise of humility & gentleness in the face of difficult circumstances (long-suffering).
- Tolerance = exercise of humility & gentleness in the face of difficult people (bearing with one another).
- Love = unconditionally seeking the good of others, with no expectation of return (John 13:34-35).
- Eagerness to maintain Unity & Peace = continued commitment to unity in the body.
- The opposite is Prideful, Harsh, Irritable, Judgmental & Selfish people, hyper-focused on having their own needs and desires met.
- How many conflicts would be avoided if Christians would be consistent pursuers of Unity?

III. Ties that Unify (4:4-6)

- One body - we are not many divided bodies of Christ, we all make up only one (universal, catholic).
- One Spirit - our common denominator is the same indwelling, life-giving Holy Spirit.
- One hope - eternity, without sin, without death & pain, in God's presence forever.
- One Lord - Jesus alone is LORD; not a preacher, not a President, not a political figure or leader.
- One faith - the Essential doctrines of the Christian faith/gospel (Jude 1:3).
- One baptism - the outward declaration of our identity with Christ, regardless of how much water is used.
- One God and Father of us all - by His grace, through the blood Christ, and the regeneration of the Spirit.

IV. Walk it out!

- Self evaluation time. Would others describe you as Humble, Gentle, Patient, Tolerant, Loving, Unifying?
- Unity evaluation time. With whom are you at odds, disunited? Why?
- Action time.
 - Confess your sin.
 - Go to and address with others what you need to fix. Apologize and change.
 - Pray for the one that needs to fix it with you. Genuinely forgive them. Intentionally love them.