



Serve, Support, Strengthen

Bible Study: Unity in the Church - Living by the Spirit Ephesians 4

- Welcome everyone – 1 min
- Suggest feedback on answered prayer – 5 - 10min
- Time of Bible study – 40 minutes
- Questions – 10 minutes

Introduction:

The theme of unity is vital for the collective progress of the Church. This study explores the importance of maintaining unity in the body of Christ, addressing common issues that cause division and identifying our role in promoting harmony. By examining Paul's teachings in Ephesians 4-6, we'll uncover how unity strengthens the Church, promotes growth, and helps resolve many challenges. We'll also explore the gifts and roles given to believers that contribute to this unified mission, and how grace plays a central role in achieving unity within diverse church communities.

1. What issues do we see in the church that divides? (politics, broken leadership teams, different understandings/interpretation of scripture – division over methods which are different)
2. Just as in a marriage, unity helps to overcome, and division breaks, so it is in the church
3. What is our role within the church to promote unity? (bond of peace, love each other, get plugged into God first)
4. Chapters 4 – 6 of Ephesians expounds on what we do to reflect His work and power back to Him.
Read Ephesians 4:1-6
5. Why does Paul relate being a Christian as a prisoner to the Lord?
6. How does unity bring progress to the church?
7. There is power in unity – eg the **Tower of Babel** people were split vs **Ps 133:1**. What does this verse say about living in harmony/unity
8. Read **John 17 v 1** (NKJV) Fill in the missing words: Now I am no longer in the _____, but these are in the _____, and I come to You. _____, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that _____ as _____ are _____.
9. How does unity defeat many church problems? (Makes us stronger, we are walking in Gods way, not our own)
10. We unite in Christ, not our subjective understanding of church things



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11. What are the seven things given to us to help unity in the Church? (ONE Body, ONE Spirit, ONE Hope, ONE Lord, ONE Faith, ONE Baptism, ONE God + Father.)

Read Ephesians 4:7-16

12. While diversity brings progress, how does unity protect the variety specifically in the church?
13. In Ephesians 4:8, Paul refers to giving gifts to His people, these people become ambassadors for Christ... list five roles in the church and their gifting. (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers)
14. How does God's grace promote unity?
15. In the light that unity requires grace, what works of service does Paul mean in v12?
16. In v15, if Christ is the figurative head of the body, what does that mean about us?
17. How does this translate to trans-local ministries or missions?
18. What is your next step or challenge in maturity in serving God?
19. Humility is essential, as God puts part of His Spirit in us, for different works, we need to recognise that as believers are part of one body, God sees value in all of us. Titles in the church should not be according to gifts, as we have ALL been given a 'grace' gift. And all gifts are important.

Conclusion:

Unity within the Church is essential for spiritual growth, Paul emphasizes that when the Church operates in unity, it reflects Christ's work and power, protects diversity, as we are equipped as believers to fulfill their roles as ambassadors of Christ. Grace is the foundation of unity, enabling us to serve one another and advance the Kingdom of God. As we strive for maturity in our faith, we are called to take active steps toward fostering unity, serving in love, and fulfilling our God-given purpose in the body of Christ.