

LET US WALK IN UNITY!

Part 2: Ephesians 4:1-6

Ephesians 4:1-6 is Paul's pastoral exhortation to walk and live our lives together in unity. Genuine togetherness that is authentic, permanent and eternal can only be found in God's redeemed community called the church. We cannot live a life that is right and pleasing before God if we do not know how to live together in harmony with our brothers and sisters in Christ. As we reflect on Paul's instruction, we will consider four ways by which we as a church must walk and live together in unity.

1. We must live a life a life worthy of our calling.

2. We must manifest Christian love to the family of God.

3. We must be _____ the unity of our church.

Church unity is neither easy nor automatic. Christian unity requires what Paul calls as eagerness to maintain this unity (Eph. 4:3). The term eager means to be earnestly diligent or to make every effort with urgency and zeal. Paul implores us to be zealously diligent to preserve the unity of our church. Paul does not tell us to create this unity. Instead, Paul urges us to keep and cultivate this unity. Our unity as a church is already created by God Himself because only God could produce this unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. What unites us believers together is the Spirit of God Himself through the reconciling work of Jesus on the Cross (Eph. 2:14,22).

4. We must value and honor our _____.

The foundational basis of our Christian unity is the nature of God Himself. Our unity as a church is securely grounded upon the unity and oneness of our Triune God. In Ephesians 4:4, Paul declares that we are united in God the Holy Spirit. Paul says that "*there is one body, one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope that belongs to our call.*" The Holy Spirit is the One who imparts spiritual life, indwells, fills and empowers all believers and unites them all together in the church which is the one body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:3; Rom. 8:9). We also share one common blessed hope which guarantees our rich inheritance in Christ and future glory of becoming perfectly like Jesus and being with our loving God forever (Eph. 1:18; 1 John 3:3). We are likewise united in God the Son. Paul says that we have "*one Lord, one faith and one baptism.*" To confess Jesus as Lord is to embrace Him as the only divine Savior and exalted head of the church who deserves our full submission and wholehearted allegiance (Rom. 10:9,12-13). Paul goes on to explain that because of our one faith in our one Lord Jesus, we all participate in one baptism (Eph. 4:5; Jude 1:3)

Finally, Paul states that we are united in God the Father. He declares that we have "*one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all and in all*" (Eph. 4:6). Paul simply means that God is the Father of all believers of Christ. Our heavenly Father is our sovereign God who lovingly rules and cares for us, graciously uses us as His instruments and servants and intimately dwells within us (Eph. 1:11; Luke 21:18; Matt. 6:8,25-33; Eph. 3:10; 2:22; Isa. 41:10; Phil. 2:13; Matt. 16:18; 5:9, 23-24; Rom. 8:39).
