

## **“The Importance of Doctrinal Unity”**

“Ephesians”— Part 9

*Ephesians 4:4-6*

### **Review:**

#### **1. The Christian life is a walk and a calling.**

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...

Ephesians 4:1 (NASB)

#### **2. The Christian life is a walk of humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance and love.**

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

#### **3. The Christian life is a walk to preserve unity.**

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

***“Someone once asked Gandhi, the spiritual leader of India at the time,  
‘What is the greatest hindrance to Christianity in India?’  
He replied, ‘Christians!’”***

***What destructive power there is in disunity!  
What power there is in loving, Christian unity.***

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

#### **4. Agreement in essential doctrine is key to unity.**

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

#### **• One body—the Church**

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

#### **• One Spirit—the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer**

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence,

I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel...  
Philippians 1:27

• **One hope of our calling—eternal life**

...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time...  
Titus 1:2

• **One Lord—Jesus Christ**

...there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.  
1 Corinthians 8:6

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.  
2 Peter 2:1-2

• **One Faith—the body of essential Christian truths**

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.  
Jude 3

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also...  
1 Corinthians 15:1-8

**The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Church universal,  
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting (heaven and hell).  
Amen.

- **One baptism**—the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of which water baptism is a symbol. It is an outward sign of an inward reality. Methods may vary, but every true Christian church practices this essential ordinance.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks,  
slave or free— and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 12:13

- **One God and Father of all**—the Godhead

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the  
covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another?

Malachi 2:10

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at  
all in the world and that there is no God but one—there is but one God, the  
Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one  
Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

**Application:** As we proceed toward the goal of Christlikeness, we will always find more unity,  
harmony, and peace within our own hearts. If we are abiding in Christ, we will also sow the  
seeds of unity, harmony, and peace in our church. This is how we discern the wisdom that is  
from above according to the Apostle James.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving,  
considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.  
Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:17-18

**You were called to preserve the unity of the Spirit.  
It's time to walk your calling!**