

Title: The Threefold Unity {The TRI-UNITY OF GOD}

Text; Ephesians 4:4-6

Take your Bibles, pleas, and turn to Ephesians chapter 4. Last Sunday we looked at the first three verses of this 4th chapter. And we noticed that Paul was encouraging christians to "be diligent to presearve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *And He told us how to do that*

Today, we come to The Essential Unity

*ATTITUDE - Towards self - Humility - Gentleness
Toward others - Patience - Longsuffering*

~~Now, we certainly want to preserve the unity in the bond of peace....~~
~~Right?.... We want to do that? So, if that is to happen~~ There are certain things that we must all agree upon...We must all agree on certain principles.

Well, what are they?....Ephesians chapter 4 beginning with Vs 4...on the ESSENTIALS OF UNITY *OR a distinct solution for the church* (READ Vs 4-6)PRAYER

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(10) By way of introduction, let me suggest a *couple of* few things to you.

(1) First of all, the numeral "one" is used seven times in these three verses.

It tells us that there are seven things that form the core of UNITY...7 things.

(2) *Number two* In Vs 4 the phrase "just as you were called" takes us back to Vs 1 where Paul tells us to "walk in a manner worthy of our calling". You see, God has called us to himself. And the unity results from his calling us to himself.

now That is true, dear friends, of every believer.

OK with this in mind, Now, third, there are three major division in this passage.

In Verse 4, we are talking about the work of the Holy Spirit: ONE BODY.... ONE BPIRIT....CALLED IN ONE HOPE.

In Vs 5, we are talking about JESUS: ONE LORD...OUR SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST.. ONE FAITH....ONE BAPTISM.

In Vs 6, we are talking about God the Father as the father of all.

So, we have three divisions of thought based upon the TRI-UNITY OF God.

Also, we may look at all of this as THREE OBJECTIVE FACTS...Meaning: this is not telling us that Christians should Try to achieve theses things. It is saying WHAT ALREADY ARE THE FACTS OF UNITY. These 7 principles are already true of every believer. And we are to maintian them..to guard them carefully..

Now, let me show you what each of these division refer to.

(1) *First of all*

In Vs 4, ^{work of the} the Holy Spirit is mentioned. And the special reference there is "ONE HOPE". We were reminded in Ephesians 1:13-14 that we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. The point is that when you became a christian, God put you into one body, ^{the church} by one Holy Spirit, guaranteeing the hope of your calling. Namely, the return of Jesus Christ.

Let me put it to you another way. There is no real unity that excludes the coming of Jesus Christ. There isn't ~~any~~ ^{any}. If Jesus Christ isn't coming back, let's go home. Let's eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die. Everything in christianity is built on the second coming of Jesus. Jesus said, "I will come again and receive you unto myself. That where I am there you may be also."

And the ^{H.S.} ~~spirit of God~~ seals us when we come to know the Lord ^{as Jesus} One body in christ anticipating the second coming of Christ. That effects all of our relationships.

When someone is sick and ill and dieing, what a joy it is to go to them and say, "wouldn't it be great if the Lord would come today?"

Or, if someone has lost a loved one to say, "if the Lord would come today, the separation would be so short."

That which binds the believers together...["]even so["] ["]come Lord Jesus.["] It is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ that is our "one hope".

(2) *secondly*

When you come to Vs 5 you are talking about ~~the~~ salvation through Jesus Christ the son. One Lord...One faith....One Bapatism.....

To prove all three are connected, he puts a numeral in all three genders. Masculine...Fimine...and neuter....And I point that out to emphase that all three belong together: ONE LORD....ONE FAITH....ONE BAPTISM...

WHAT IS PAUL TALKING ABOUT?

"One Lord" is certainly the issue of the diety of Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9 says "if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord; and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be what?...SAVED...."

Peter Feind

~~Folks~~, listen to me. As tolerant as you may want to be towards groups that do not believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, the Bible teaches that if you do not confess J~~e~~us christ as being God, you are not a ~~believer~~ ^{Christian}. You are not believing what the Bible says about Jesus. That he was God manifested in the flesh. ONE LORD.....

ONE FAITH... Salvation is not by works. Every false religious system, every cultic group bases their performance on works. They base their whole concept of salvation upon their performance. On their deeds. On their works.

Paul wrote in chapter 2 "By grace you have been saved through what.. FAITH. ONE LORD....ONE FAITH.....ONE BAPTISM.....

out Now, baptism is the one that everybody has trouble with. Isn't it interesting that this passage says that this is unity. And there is one of these seven principles that causes division? ONE BAPTISM...

To illustrate.....If I where to lay out here in front of you all the books in my library on Ephesians, and we were to turn to this passage, we would discover that all these books are divided into two camps. Half of them say that this is "spirit baptism". The other half say that this is "water baptism."

out Now, frineds, honesty, this is a problem. WHY? Let's take those who believe ^{what} ~~that it~~ is "spirit baptism". One baptism in the Holy Sprit. If that is true, it should really be in Vs 4, not in Vs 5. Because in Vs 4 is where we find the mention of the ~~Holy Spirit~~ ^{Body Holy Spirit}. If it is spirit baptism, it is by one spirit that we are all baptized into one body. It seems like it is out of order.

out Plus it follows the statement of faith into one lord. It seems like "spirit baptism" also in point of disagreement.

also There are some folks who aggue that not every christian has been baptized by the Holy Sprit. I don't agree with that. But it is interesting that no matter what view you take on this particular problem of "ONE BAPTISM" it is hard to find unity.

Men there are those who say that
Let me for a moment ~~argue that~~ it is "water baptistm." O.K. if that is ture..then what is the method: pouring...sprinkling or immersion....

And people continue to be divided over water baptism... That is interesting interesting to me because after Pentecost there isn't a single cause of any believer not being baptized. What we argue about doesn't seem to be an argument in the N.T.

It is also interesting that in the Great Commission when we are told to make disciples, it says "baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit."

It is also interesting to me that throughout human history, and even currently in all countries of the world, there is one great rite of initiation. ~~It always has been.~~ And that is baptism...

And even in the false cults baptism is the rite of initiation..... All over the world baptism is the rite of initiation. You can fall to be baptized and go around as a secret believer, you know, just letting it be know to a few people who will not imbarass you *if you told them you were a churche*

But, once you openly declare Christ and confess him in baptism by water, you are known. You are one of His. You are baptized in the name of Jesus.

So, I could ~~argue~~ argue on both side. But, what is the true answer.

I think both are involved. *Now* ~~How~~ is that for a cop out. *No*..... Do you know why?.. Because I believe *The Bible teaches* that water baptism sybolized spirit baptism. And I ~~do~~ believe the key issue here is confession of Jesus christ. In Vs 4 it is the Holy Spirit. In Vs 5 it is Jesus Christ. *He is Lord - He is the author of the Faith - And it is one Baptism into the Faith*

this is deal with? Now, let's come to Vs 6 ..GOD THE FATHER. Do you know what ~~that final thing is?~~ It is dealing with the soveriety of God the Father. On this we must be unified. Nobody else is to be placed in his spote. He is over all, as to position. He is number one.

He is working through all. His power is mainifested in the blievers life And He is in all the believers. The thing that makes them one is the common presence of God. You and I are not one because of common likes and dislikes. We are one because our bodies *God* is the temple of God, himself. This church is a place of God as Paul taught in chapters 1 and 2.

Yes, we are one because God makes us one. His life is in us. And this comes because we believe in Christ....

We confess Jesus as Lord. And the spirit of God seals us. Assuring us that one day Jesus Christ will come for all the brothers and sisters.

Therefore, let's have humility and gentleness. Therefore, let's be patience with one another. Therefore, let's ~~strive~~ strive to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.....

~~And~~

And ~~all~~, dear friends, this whole teaching on Unity is symbolized, recognized, experienced, testified to -- every time we share Communion Together. For it is at the Table of our Lord where we demonstrate our Unity in all 7 of these Areas.

One Body — one Lord

one Spirit

one Hope

one Lord — Jesus

one Faith —

one Baptism —

one God — our Father

Shall we Pray