

All for One and One for All

[Ephesians 4:1-7](#)

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Eph 4:4 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Many of you are familiar with the book by Alexander Dumas entitled "*The Three Musketeers*". The heroes of that story had as their motto "*All for one and one for all*". This meant that each member of that group of men would fight for the group or for any of the others. In other words, they were vowing to stand together in their common fight. As I thought about this passage of Scripture, I realize that this is what the Apostle Paul is trying to get the Ephesian church to adopt as their motto.

Simply stated, I believe that Lord expects us, as a church family, to walk together in absolute unity for His glory. These verses tell us that unity is not just a possibility, it is a divine requirement if we are to be everything God wants us to be as a church.

Notice Paul's use of the word "*therefore*" in verse one. This word draws our attention back to the previous chapters, where Paul has been laying a foundation of biblical, Christian doctrine. As he begins his remarks in chapter 4, Paul is saying that there is no divorcing Christian doctrine from Christian duty! He is saying, "*You know the truth, now walk in it!*"

Jas 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

The bottom line is this: *Where there is genuine faith, there will be genuine works to back it up!*

This morning, I want to take this passage show you two main points on the thought: "*All For One And One For All.*"

- I want us to see that being one in the Lord is God's will for His people.

Php 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Php 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

- and I want to show you how it is possible.

That is a tall order, but this passage gives us the necessary details. Notice the truths that are contained in this passage.

I. The Source of Christian Unity

If we are to be united in the Lord, what is to be the basis for our unity? I mean, we all come here today from different backgrounds, different cultural foundations, different economic backgrounds, different lifestyles, etc. How can we possibly find any common ground? These verses tell us about two areas that every saved person in this room holds in common with every other saved person. These two areas provide us with the source of Christian unity.

A. We Share Common Ground

Eph 4:4 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

Eph 4:5 *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

Eph 4:6 *One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

The night before Jesus was crucified, He prayed for His people. One of the things He prayed for us that His people would be *“one”*.

Joh 17:20 *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

Joh 17:21 *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

Joh 17:22 *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

Joh 17:23 *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

To ensure that we would have the foundation upon which build in unity, the Lord provided us with 7 great possessions that every Christian in this room shares in Him.

Look back at our text in Ephesians. We possess:

- One body,
- One Spirit,
- One hope,
- One Lord,
- One faith,
- One baptism,
- One God and Father.

Did you notice that everything is about Him? When our lives, our desires, our will, our interests, etc, stop being about Him and start to focus on us, we are headed for trouble! As believers, we may come from different places, but we stand on common ground!

B. We Share Common Grace

Eph 4:7 *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

[Verse 7](#) begins a new thought, in which Paul will speak of the spiritual gifts that are given to the ministers of the church to profit the church. Of course, it is good to note here that every believer possesses at least one spiritual gift. Romans chapter 12 and 1 Corinthians chapter 12 are great passages to study about this. Now, there just isn't enough time this morning to flesh all of this out, another sermon, another time, but I would like you to see this:

1Co 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Co 12:5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

1Co 12:6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

1Co 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

Rom 12:5 So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

Rom 12:7 Or ministry, *let us wait* on *our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

Rom 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Every child of God has been gifted. Unfortunately, many believers do not even realize what talent they have been given. Many years ago, my mother-in-law worked for TDC. She worked death row for most of that time. She would bring home some of the most beautiful, well-made works of art that the inmates had produced. Without fail, the inmates producing these products had no idea that they even had that talent. How much different might their lives have been if they had realized, developed, and utilized this talent before they were incarcerated.

That gift that you have been given was given to you to use for the glory of God and to be a blessing to the church! As each believer uses the gifts he or she is given, the unity of the church is strengthened and the church is helped!

The source of our unity lies in what we share in common and in the fact that we have each been especially equipped by the Lord to be a blessing and a help to the church!

II. The Secret of Christian Unity

Now that we know where our unity originates, how are we to go about the business of practicing, protecting and strengthening our unity? I am so glad you asked! These verses hold the simple answer!

A. We Must Exercise the Right Walk

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Eph 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Note here that the apostle does not tell us to “*make*” unity! Unity already exists in God's church, our duty is to manifest it and maintain it! Notice how this is done.

1. Lowliness - This word means, "*Humility; an accurate understanding of your own moral smallness.*"

In essence, it means you realize your own insignificance while you see the worth of others!

Php 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

It's not "*How great I am!*" It's "*I am what I am by the grace of God!*" It's about us getting off our pedestal and realizing that were it not for the grace of God, we would still be a hell bound sinner living for the devil! Having a "lowly" spirit keeps me reminded of the fact that I am just one heartbeat away from failing God myself, therefore, I won't look down my nose at others who may have fallen!

2. Meekness - This word means "*gentleness; power under control.*"

It refers to having the power to react against others, but refusing to for the sake of Christ! Sometimes, it means keeping your mouth shut, instead of setting someone else straight. Sometimes it means reacting with honey when you want to react with vinegar! It means being sweet toward others!

When you are "*meek and lowly*" you are in good company!

Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Mat 11:30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

By the way, meekness is part of the "*fruit of the Spirit*"!

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

3. Longsuffering - This word means "*patience, endurance*". It literally means "*to be long tempered.*"

It refers to having a long fuse! Do you have a long fuse or a short fuse? What does it take to get you riled up? If we are going to promote unity in the church, then we must learn to be long tempered! By the way, this is also part of the fruit of the Spirit!

4. Forbearing in Love - The word "*forbearing*" means "*to endure, or to put up with*".

It means giving people space to be themselves. It means being unoffendable. You can be as loud and mean as a cat stuck in a chain link fence, or as useful as a post-turtle, but I can and will choose to love you anyway. You see, the word "*love*" refers to God's kind of love. It is a love that is unconditional and eternal. It doesn't end based on what others do, but it

remains constant and strong in spite of injury! Basically, this phrase calls on believers to give one another the right to be different, to hold different opinions, and generally, to be themselves!

It has been said, *“In essentials, unity. In nonessentials, liberty. In everything, charity!”*)

Paul put it this way:

Rom 12:9 *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

Rom 12:10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

Rom 12:11 *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

Rom 12:12 *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*

Rom 12:13 *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

Rom 12:14 *Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*

Rom 12:15 *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*

Rom 12:16 *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

Rom 12:17 *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

Rom 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

B. We Must Embrace the Right Work

Eph 4:3 *Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Maintaining unity in the church requires more than just a change in the way we walk. Unity in the church requires hard work! The word *“endeavoring”* means *“to exert oneself”*. We are called upon in this verse to *“keep”*, *“to guard; to keep as a prisoner”*, the *“unity of the Spirit”*. In other words, we are to work hard to ensure that the unity the Spirit of God wants to produce within the church is unhindered and unbroken! How are we to do this?

By maintaining the *“bond of peace.”* *“Bond”* refers to *“that which binds something together”*. We might call it *“glue”*! *“Peace”* simply refers to *“harmony between individuals”*. As we determine within our hearts that we will walk in love toward one another, we will be exerting ourselves to see that the Spirit's purpose in our church is carried out!

(Note: This duty does not lie on the other person's shoulders! It rests squarely upon every individual in this church! It is my responsibility to walk in love toward my brothers and it is my duty to work for unity in the church!)

Most Americans can recall what they were doing on January 28, 1986. I was in Navy bootcamp in Orlando, Florida. On that historic date, the space shuttle Challenger exploded just seventy-three seconds into flight. Seven families were robbed by death and an entire nation was racked with grief. All of this loss was ultimately blamed on one inexpensive O-ring. Records revealed that the space shuttle was comprised of one million components. In this sea of mechanical makeup, it took just one part to destroy the whole. One million parts did their job, but one failed and disaster occurred.

Most people feel their role within the church is not only small and insignificant, but inconsequential as well. This erroneous doctrine of the church causes individuals to believe their behavior can't hurt the church. But like that small and seemingly insignificant O-ring, one failed performance can produce catastrophic results.

III. The Satisfaction of Christian Unity

Eph 4:1 *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,*

If we decide to walk in unity, one with another, what is the payoff? What's in it for the church if we do the hard work of walking in unity?

A. We Will Live a Balanced Life

The word “*worthy*” has the idea of “*balance*”. In other words, as you and I walk together, in lock step, as a team, for the glory of God, we are declaring to a watching world that what we have is real! You see, nothing proclaims the genuineness of our faith like our open, unconditional love for our brothers and sisters in Jesus!

Joh 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Two drunks in a bar fought somewhere last night. Today they are sober again and their fight is forgotten and they are friends. All they have is the bond of the flesh!

Here in the church, we allow our hurts to fester and we nurse our grudges. And we profess to have the “*unity of the Spirit!*” Isn't it time to put it to rest? Isn't it time we showed the world and all the young believers that this thing is real? Isn't it time that everyone in the church made every effort to ensure that their walk matched their talk?

B. We Will Live a Blessed Life

As we walk in unity, we will be what the Lord saved us to be: living proof that Jesus makes a difference in all those He touches! Your life, my life and the life of this church will trumpet to a lost world that we are different, we are saved, and we are in this thing together for the glory of God! Being united won't make you rich, beautiful or famous, but it will bring honor to God and it will draw the Lord's blessings in this direction.

“*All for one and one for all!*” Is that the motto of your heart this morning?

The May 1987 edition of National Geographic included a feature about the arctic wolf. Author L. David Mech described how a seven-member pack had targeted several musk-oxen calves who were guarded by eleven adults. As the wolves approached their quarry, the musk-oxen bunched in an impenetrable semicircle, their deadly rear hooves facing out, and the calves remained safe during a long standoff with the enemy.

But then a single ox broke rank, and the herd scattered into nervous little groups. A skirmish ensued, and the adults finally fled in panic, leaving the calves to the mercy of the predators. Not a single calf survived!

Lighthouse, as of this morning I don't know of any problems going on here. We for the most part have been in unity for quite some time. I do know, however, that we are living in perilous times. I also know that there are many baby believers within the flock.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders in [Acts 20](#) that after his departure wolves would come, not sparing the flock. Wolves continue to attack the church today, but they cannot penetrate and destroy when the church stands together in unity. However, when believers break ranks with one another, they provide the enemy with easy prey!

It may be that the sermon this morning is just a reminder of who we are, and how we are to thrive and bring glory to the Lord in the coming days.

It may be that someone here today has had their feelings hurt by others in the church, and you haven't been as loving and as forgiving toward that person as the Lord wants you to be. Why not get that settled today.

It may be that others here have been on the offending end of the situation, why don't you come before the Lord and ask Him for forgiveness.

It may be that what you folks need to do this morning is have an old-fashioned neck-hugging, tear-jerking, snot-slinging time of just loving on one another! I guarantee you the devil won't like it, but the Lord surely will!

Still others may have come into the house of the Lord lost today, and what I am talking about sounds real good on paper, but you just can't see how it would ever work in this world we live in. I would answer that with the fact that all things are

possible with Christ. I want to invite you to let us introduce to Him. He died for you on the cross and if you will trust Him, He will save your soul! Please ask us about those lessons before you leave.

Whoever you are and wherever you may stand before the Lord today, if you have a need in your heart, let's get it settled.