

Unity in the Church
Ephesians 4:1-16

Introduction:

Our Scripture lesson for this evening is about the implications of being in the body of Christ, the church. Believers should have unity in their commitment to Christ and to one another. Too often believers are separated by minor differences. Believers should never let petty differences dissolve their unity.

Walk Worthy (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Paul was a prisoner at Rome and in the Lord. He counted it an honor to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. Paul asks believers to live worthy of our calling as Christians. As representatives of Jesus, we are to be humble, gentle, patient and understanding. Our witness to the world should be how we live everyday, not just on Sunday.

Walk in Unity (Ephesians 4:4-7)

Christians can only walk in unity when we embrace others and appreciate the unique qualities God has given to each of us. "There is one body, one Spirit" (Eph. 4:4)

This tells us that we all belong to the same body which is made up of many members (1 Corinthians 12:12). Once a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior, that person becomes a part of the family of God. Since we are all part of the same body, the Holy Spirit at work in our lives is the common denominator that unifies the fellowship of believers.

Walk in Your Gift (Ephesians 4:8-16)

The gift of ministry is the fruit of Christ's ascension. He gave all members of His church gifts and graces suitable to their diverse conditions and positions. God knows why He gave each of us specific gifts. We have to be grateful for His gifts and use them wisely. The gifts are for the building up of the body, advancing His kingdom and interests in the world. Together as members of the body of Christ we can make disciples in every nation.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

God wants us to promote love, peace and unity among the body. If we are all believers in Christ, we should appreciate others' gift and work together for the glory of God.

The Oneness of All Believers

Believers are one in:

Body
Spirit
Hope
Lord
Faith
Baptism
God

Our Unity is Expressed in;

The fellowship of believers-church
The Holy Spirit who activates the fellowship
That glorious future to which we are all called
Christ, to whom we all belong
Our singular commitment to Christ
Baptism- the sign of entry unto the church
God, who is our Father and keeps us for eternity

Practical Ways to Promote Unity: The One Another Scriptures (Excerpts)

John 13:34- “love one another”

Ephesians 4:2- “forebearing one another in love”

Ephesians 4:32- “be kind to one another, forgiving one another”

Ephesians 5:21- “submitting yourselves to one another”

Romans 12:10- “be kindly affectioned one to another”

Romans 12:16- “Be of the same mind one toward another”

Romans 15:7- “receive ye one another”

Romans 15:14- “admonish one another”

2 Corinthians 13:12 – “Greet one another”

1 Peter 4:9- “Use hospitality one to another”

Galatians 5:13- “by love serve one another”

1 Thessalonians 4:18- “comfort one another”

1 Thessalonians 5:11- “edify one another”

Hebrews 3:13- “exhort one another daily”

Hebrews 10:24- “consider one another”

Colossians 3:16 – “teaching and admonishing one another”

James 5:16- “confess your faults one to another, pray one for another”

Questions to Consider:

1. What do you say is the main theme of our Scripture passage?
2. What are some of the basic issues that Christians disagree about?
3. Who is the one Person that can bring about unity in the church?
4. What are my spiritual gifts and how can I use them to build up the body of Christ and glorify God?
5. Does our oneness in Christ destroy our individuality?

Resource: Bible Expositor and Illuminator