

# L92 | Ephesians | "Keep the Unity of the Spirit" | Eph. 4:1-3

## I. Intro/Review:

- Walk | Worthy | Vocation wherewith Ye Are Called
- With All | Lowliness and meekness, and longsuffering, forbearing one another in love
  - **"forbearing"** - (verb)
    - Definition - to hold up, to hold one's self erect and firm; to sustain, to bear, to endure
  - Verses (Translated)
    - Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I **suffer** you? bring him hither to me. {Matthew 17:17 KJV}
    - He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I **suffer** you? bring him unto me. {Mark 9:19 KJV}
    - And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and **suffer** you? Bring thy son hither. {Luke 9:41 KJV}
    - And when Paul was now about to open [his] mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O [ye] Jews, reason would that I should **bear** with you: {Acts 18:14 KJV}
    - And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we **suffer** it: {1 Corinthians 4:12 KJV}
    - Would to God ye could bear[G430] with me a little in [my] folly: and indeed **bear**[G430] with me. {2 Corinthians 11:1 KJV}
    - For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or [if] ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well **bear** with [him]. {2 Corinthians 11:4 KJV}
    - For ye **suffer** fools gladly, seeing ye [yourselves] are wise. {2 Corinthians 11:19 KJV}
    - For ye **suffer**, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour [you], if a man take [of you], if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. {2 Corinthians 11:20 KJV}
    - With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, **forbearing** one another in love; {Ephesians 4:2 KJV}
    - **Forbearing** one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye. {Colossians

3:13 KJV}

- So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye **endure**: {2 Thessalonians 1:4 KJV}
- For the time will come when they will not **endure** sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; {2 Timothy 4:3 KJV}
- And I beseech you, brethren, **suffer** the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words. {Hebrews 13:22 KJV}
- **"one another in love"**
  - "one another" - Jew and Gentile in Christ, in one body
  - "in love" - Eph. 1:4, 3:17, 4:15-16, 5:2
    - John 13:34-35
    - John 15:8-18
    - John 17:17-24

## II. Preview:

1. Endeavouring to Keep
2. The Unity of the Spirit
3. The Bond of Peace

## III. Sermon:

### Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. {Ephesians 4:3}

#### 1. "endeavouring"

- Definition
  - To hasten, make haste, to exert one's self, endeavour, give diligence
  - Study
  - early 12c., *studien*, "to strive toward, devote oneself to, cultivate" (virtue, vice, wisdom, art, etc., sometimes translating Latin *occupare*), from Old French *estudier* "to **study**, apply oneself, show zeal for; examine" (13c., Modern French *étudier*).  
This is from Medieval Latin *studiare*, from Latin *studium* "**study**, application," originally "eagerness," from *studere* "to be diligent," which is reconstructed to be from PIE *\*(s)teu-* (1) "to push, stick, knock, beat" (see [steep](#) (adj.)). The notion appears to be "pressing forward, thrusting toward," hence "striving after."
- It is attested from c. 1300 specifically as "apply oneself to the acquisition of learning, pursue a formal course of **study**," also "read (a book or writings) intently or meditatively." It is from mid-14c. as "reflect, muse, think, ponder." The broad meaning "seek to learn particulars of by observation" is from c. 1600; that of "regard attentively" is from 1660s.

- Verses (Translated)
  - Only [they would] that we should remember the poor; **the same which I** also was **forward** to do. {Galatians 2:10 KJV}
  - **Endeavouring** to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. {Ephesians 4:3 KJV}
  - But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, **endeavoured** the more abundantly to see your face with great desire. {1 Thessalonians 2:17 KJV}
  - **Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. {2 Timothy 2:15 KJV}
  - Do thy **diligence** to come shortly unto me: {2 Timothy 4:9 KJV}
  - Do thy **diligence** to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren. {2 Timothy 4:21 KJV}
  - When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be **diligent** to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter. {Titus 3:12 KJV}
  - Let us **labour** therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. {Hebrews 4:11 KJV}
  - Wherefore the rather, brethren, give **diligence** to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: {2 Peter 1:10 KJV}
  - Moreover I will **endeavour** that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. {2 Peter 1:15 KJV}
  - Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be **diligent** that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. {2 Peter 3:14 KJV}
- **"to keep"** - (heavenly sand we keep - we toil)
  - Definition
    - To attend to carefully, take care of; to guard; to keep, one in the state in which he is
  - The oneness of the Spirit has taught becomes the ground we toil in, the heavenly dirt we labor, the spiritual soil we sow and reap.
    - The Spirit and His unity is the garden of the Lord that which the one new man created in Christ Jesus for us to work in.
    - Gen. 2:15 - "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."
      - Gen. 2:7 - "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and

breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

- Eph. 2 - quickening spirit
- Eph. 2:10 - created in Christ Jesus unto good works

## 2. "the unity of the Spirit"

- Definition
  - Agreement; oneness
- Verses (Translated)
  - Endeavouring to keep the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace. {Ephesians 4:3 KJV}
  - Till we all come in the **unity** of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: {Ephesians 4:13 KJV}
- Substance
  - The oneness of teaching to both Jew and Gentile
  - Any distinction or fleshly cause for division and dissension dealt with the unity of the Spirit
    - Unity in Adam and Unity in Christ
  - Christ's death, burial, and resurrection that the Spirit baptizes Jew and Gentile into one body

## 3. "in the bond of peace"

- Peace binds us
  - Bond - Col. 2:19, 3:14
  - Uniting tie and principle,
- Peace with God - Rom. 3-5
- Ministry of Reconciliation - Rom. 9-11, 2 Cor. 5
- Peace between Jew and Gentile - Eph. 2

## IV. Conclusion: