

The God of Unity

From the Series,
"What Is God Like?"

Ephesians 4:1-16
Preached 6/07/15
Meadow Baptist Church



TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

1. Our Unity Was Paul's Priority (1-3)

- a. Unity reveals our awareness (1) - "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."
- b. Unity requires selflessness (2) - "...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love..."
- c. Unity demands intentional effort (3) - "...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

2. Our Unity Is Spiritual Reality (4-7)

- a. We are all bound together by the same Spirit (4a) - "There is one body and one Spirit..."
- b. We all share the same future (4b) - "... just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call."
- c. We all bow at the same throne (5-6) - "5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."
- d. We all function in the same need for grace (7) - "But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift."

3. Our Unity Is Essential For Functionality (11-14)

- a. God appoints influencers (11-12a) - "And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints..."
- b. God enables builders (12b) - "...for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."
- c. God matures us together (13-14) - "Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."

4. Our Unity Is Connected To Our Destiny (15-16)

- a. Two pillars (15a) - "Rather, speaking the truth in love..."
- b. One focus (15b) - "...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."
- c. Three Results (16)
 - i. Corporate oneness - "...from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped..."
 - ii. Individual participation - "...when each part is working properly..."
 - iii. Spiritual vitality - "...makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."