



Ephesians 4:1-6
The Priority of Unity
Dr. Jimmy Stewart
April 16, 2023

Sermon Summary

It seems that we are living in a time of great diversity and sadly even greater division. What the world needs now is love is a well known lyric from a couple of generations past but what the world really needs today is love that leads to unity. Those who are unified are winners whether it is in government, education, athletics, business, families or even the church. If you are part of a group that is unified in purpose and unified in community, the sky is the limit. If, however, you are divided among those you associate with, the end of your dreams may be near. Jesus nailed it when he said, “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.” (Mark 3:24-26) So here we are, living in the times of huge advances in technology, incredible wealth and advancing health care but also of the greatest division. Who will unite us? What will unite us? Jesus came to unite us with His Father. In so doing he prayed that we would all be one just He and His Father are one (John 17). If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12), maybe just maybe larger numbers of coming generations will be united in ways that will build bridges and not walls, will grow the Kingdom and not kingdoms which by design will result in more transformed lives of the heart and mind. While the world is falling apart with division, may the church be filled with believers who are unified with Jesus, filled with the Spirit, in love with one another and on mission!

Scripture Overview: Since God created us (Father of all), in Christ has saved us and with the Spirit has joined us together, THEREFORE we should . . . Pay close attention and follow the instructions in Ephesians 4-6 being careful to do all that the Lord has for us to do! We should walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called . . .

Doctrinal Foundations Chapters 1-3 - Directional Focus Chapters 4-6

Scripture: **Ephesians 4:1-6, (ESV)** *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. |*

Diving Into The Message

I. Walk Worthy | (KEY WORDS: Walk, Worthy, Calling)

1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. NLT

II. Live Rightly | (KEY WORDS: Humility, Gentleness, Patience, Love)

2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. NLT

III. Work Hard (Together) | (KEY WORDS: Effort, Unity, Spirit, Peace)

3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. NLT

Unity is not uniformity. It is oneness. Multiple members with various roles and responsibilities are required for the body to function properly. The same is true of a sports team, of the church and even family.

*If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **Mark 3:24-25***

We are not creating unity. Paul urges believers to “keep” the unity that we have in Christ filled with the Spirit.

Prayer is the Work; Ministry is the Prize - Haddon Robinson

IV. As One | (KEY WORDS: Body, Spirit, Hope, Lord, Faith, Baptism, God, Father of All)

4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6a one God and Father of all, NLT

V. With God | (KEY WORDS: Over, In, Through, All)

6b who is over all, in all, and living through all. NLT

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ephesians 4:1-6
The Priority of Unity
Dr. Jimmy Stewart
April 16, 2023

Questions from the Scripture

1. What have you learned about God from the first three chapters of Ephesians? About the mystery of the Gospel? About the Church and Salvation?
2. What does it mean to be called? Does God call men to salvation in Jesus? How did that happen for you?
3. What does it mean to be called to ministry? What is the difference in being called to salvation and being called to ministry? Is there a difference? Should there be?
4. In Chapter 4 Paul builds on the foundational doctrines with attention to the practical direction of life and duty to God and one another. What does it mean to “walk in a manner worthy of your calling?”
5. Of these words (Humility, Gentleness, Patience, Love), which is the hardest for you to live by? Easiest and why?
6. Of these words (Effort, Unity, Spirit, Peace), which is most important to you and what impact does it have you and the unity with other believers in the church?
7. Can the “oneness” of our faith help us witness to this divided world in which we find ourselves? How?