

## **Discovering Our Purpose, #2 Walking in Unity**

Intro: In these Sunday lessons I've been talking with you about God's purpose for the church. There is nothing that will excite us and motivate us more than the discovery of our purpose as Christians. In our last lesson we looked at what God wants to give us, and how these things motivate us to become a part of the family of God. However, it equally important to know that when we become a member of the Christ's church, we enter into a covenant with God to live a distinct life.

The first half of Ephesians stresses our wealth as the church; the second half stresses our walk as the church. We cannot enjoy the wealth without walking the walk. For the next few lessons we are going to talk about "walking the walk". There are four key areas where we must walk the walk: Walk in unity, walk in purity, walk in harmony, walk in victory. Today let's turn our attention to Ephesians 4 and let's talk about walking in unity.

There is nothing more beautiful than the peace and unity to which God has called us in Christ. In Ephesians two Paul reminds the Ephesians of the great reconciliation that took place between Jew and Gentile when they were both reconciled to God. In Ephesians 4 Paul calls this unity "the unity of Spirit". I believe that he calls it that because it is the result of the gospel; and the Holy Spirit is the agency of the gospel revelation. The gospel is the ministry of the Spirit (2 Cor. 3).

I believe that this unity is not something that we obtain after becoming Christians; but something that we possess and embrace in becoming a Christian. Hence, it is something that we can "keep" or preserve through the proper attitude toward one another, and something we can build upon toward spiritual maturity. Let's consider for a few minutes why we are one.

### **One God and Father of all**

*I take it that the "all" refers not to the whole world but is a typical contextual limitation of "pantes"—all believers. What Paul sets forth is God's relationship to all believers. He is transcendent, pervasive, immanent.*

Over all—suggesting His authority over them

Through all—suggesting His power in them

And in all—suggesting His likeness by them

*Our unity begins with God our spiritual father who begot us and made us a part of His spiritual family (Cf. Eph. 1:5).*

### **Has given to man one Lord**

*That one Lord is His Son, Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:3)*

In Revelation he is king of kings and lord of lords

In Ephesians he is head of the church (Eph. 1:22-23)

*Our allegiance is totally to him and to no one else; thus our unity is based on our acceptance of the Lordship of Christ.*

**Leading to one faith and one baptism**

*If it were the totality of all that we believe Paul would be incredibly redundant. The context suggests that the one faith is the teaching that we believe when we hear the gospel (Eph. 1:13). What men believe is:*

That we are sinners who violated the law of God (Eph. 2:1)

That Jesus died, that he was buried, that he was raised for us (Eph.

And that through Him we can have forgiveness (Eph. 1:7)

*The one baptism is the culminating manifestation of the acceptance of the gospel (Mk. 16:15-16)*

It is immersion in water in the name of Jesus (upon the basis of His lordship) Ac. 2:38

For the remission of sins (Ac. 2:38)

**Consequently we become and are one body**

*In baptism all those who embrace the one Lord enter the one body (1 Cor. 12:13).*

*That body is the church of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 5:22)*

**Indwelt by one Spirit**

*That one Spirit is "the Holy Spirit" whom we receive in becoming a Christian (Eph. 2:22)*

All those who enter the one body drink of one Spirit as the source of their spiritual life (1 Cor. 12:13).

All those who enter the one body filled with the one Spirit who is the source of their power (Eph. 3:16)

**Possessing one hope**

*That hope is eternal life (Tit. 1:2)*

**Conclusion:** When men accept the gospel they can have access to one Father by the one Spirit as members of one body (Cf. Eph. 2:16-18). Every Christian is joined together in unity with every other Christian by this unity of the Spirit.